FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 DECEMBER 1983

PLO Affairs

The five Greek ships carrying Palestinian fighters loyal to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat departed Tripoli without incident, Beirut radio announced, despite continuous observation bv Israeli naval units and overflights by Israeli planes, which drew antiaircraft fire from Palestinian dissident and Syrian positions. 'Arafat embarked on the second ship to sail, the destination of which was not declared, while the majority of his approximately 4,000 troops left on the other ships, one destined for Cyprus, two for Tunisia and Algeria, and the fourth for the YAR, the radio added. A Palestinian spokesman cited by Nicosia radio expected 'Arafat, after reaching the YAR, to visit King Husayn in Jordan, while AFP cited 'Arafat "subordinates" as suggesting that he will disembark at the Suez Canal and continue on to the YAR by other means.

The convoy of Greek ships and their French escort arrived in Nicosia and offloaded 508 passengers, most of whom will continue on to Iraq by air, Nicosia radio said, while one of the other ships put in to port for refueling and the other three ships continued their journey with French escorts.

Meanwhile, informed Palestinian sources in Paris cited by WAKH reported that Egyptian naval and air forces will protect the ships bound for the YAR and Sudan during their voyage through the Red Sea and the Suez Canal. According to the report, 900 of the Palestinians are bound for the YAR and 200 for Sudan, while 432 fighters from the Arab Liberation Front and their families will go to Iraq.

Commenting on the departure, a responsible source in the Palestinian dissidents' general command cited by Damascus radio asserted that most of those who accompanied 'Arafat were non-Palestinians and "elements of rightist reactionary forces." He "refuted" claims as to the total number of refugees, charging that there are only 1,700 persons with 'Arafat, and not the 4,000 'Arafat claimed. Voice of Lebanon radio contradicted earlier Beirut radio reports on the fate of 'Arafat's heavy weapons. It said that "over 95 percent" of them had been handed over to the Islamic Unification Movement, and not Lebanese Government forces as claimed.

Lebanon

Military Situation — Israeli warplanes attacked an Iranian-backed"terrorist" base in the Ba'labakk area on 21 December scoring accurate hits, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by IDF Radio. The base was used to launch attacks on the IDF and the Multinational Force as well as for training purposes, he stated. Damascus radio briefly acknowledged the raid, citing a military spokesman, who noted that seven civilians were wounded by the attackers. Voice of Lebanon radio said four people were killed and four more were wounded in the raid, which was targeted on the Shaykh 'Abdallah camp. However, Islamic Amal and Iranian gunmen were not in the camp at the time of the attack because it has remained empty since the French air strike in the area, the radio asserted.

The Israeli raid came after two IDF soldiers were wounded in the Al-Biqa' valley when their truck hit a land mine near the Israeli-Syrian cease-fire line, according to Jerusalem radio. Although the radio said the earlier attack on an IDF convoy in Sidon caused no Israeli casualties, KUNA reported that at least 10 Israeli soldiers were killed.

Multinational Force — At a secret session in which U.S. policy toward Lebanon was reviewed, the Chamber of Deputies was "not convinced" by Foreign Minister Elie Salim's assertion that President Reagan's recent remarks about the possible withdrawal of the U.S. contingent were merely "a slip of the tongue," the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. Meanwhile, the Italian defense minister confirmed that the Italian contingent will gradually be reduced, Rome radio noted. The foreign minister, who was appearing before Italy's Senate along with the defense minister, said Syria "cannot be considered extraneous" to a settlement in Lebanon, according to ANSA.

Iraq

During talks with visiting presidential envoy Donald Rumsfeld, President Saddam Husayn expressed Iraq's "positive response" to the U.S. desire to continue bilateral contacts in order to reach a better understanding of each other's stands on regional and international affairs, INA reported.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, currently in Washington for talks, welcomed Rumsfeld's visit to Iraq as a "new development in U.S.-Israeli relations geared to ending the Iraq-Iran war," according to MENA. An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Tehran radio castigated the "new stage in the strengthening of relations between Baghdad and Washington" whose "destructive results" will soon become apparent.

Iran

Montazeri — Grand Ayatollah Montazeri is "the most powerful arm of the revolution" after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated in a speech to security guards reported by Tehran radio. He added that "in this revolution and in this realm no one has been closer" to Khomeyni.

Protest to Kuwait — The Iranian Embassy in Kuwait issued a protest to the Foreign Affairs Ministry, IRNA reported, over the Kuwaiti police's "assault and battery" on the embassy political attache. IRNA explained that the police had broken into the attache's house, searched it while holding him at gunpoint, and assaulted and beat him.

Sudan

Government forces killed 480 rebels in an armed clash near the Ethiopian border and broke a rebel siege on a town in the area, Vice President 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib announced in a speech reported by AFP. Meanwhile, the Ethiopian news agency claimed that Egyptian fighter aircraft have arrived in Khartoum to help the Sudanese Government's campaign against rebels in the south, AFP noted.

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Evacuated Palestians Currently in Transit

Fighters Leave Cyprus for Iraq

NC211009 Nicosia Domestic Service in Greek 1000 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Approximately 500 Palestinian fighters who arrived in Larnaca from Tripoli, Lebanon, on board the Greek ferry *Naxos* left a short while ago from Larnaca airport for Iraq on two planes from Iraqi Civil Aviation. The Greek vessel *Ionian Glory* is also anchored at Larnaca port for refueling; Palestinian fighters who left from Tripoli yesterday are on board this vessel. The other three Greek ships that received at Tripoli Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and his fighters are continuing their voyage to various Arab countries with the escort of French warships.

Egyptian PLO Protection

GF201909 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1745 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Paris, 20 Dec (WAKH) — Informed Palestinian sources in the French capital have disclosed to the WAKH correspondent in Paris that Egyptian naval and air forces will provide protection for the Palestinian fighters heading to the YAR and Sudan via the Red Sea and the Suez Canal.

The sources affirmed that these measures were taken after a request by the PLO leader to the Egyptian authorities through one element of the Egyptian opposition during a telephone conversation which the PLO leader conducted with him before his exit from Tripoli.

The sources said the number of Palestinian fighters who will go to the YAR is 900, including 250 who were previously in the YAR, and that 200 others will go to Sudan, including 90 who were previously there. In addition, 432 fighters from the Arab Liberation Front, together with 90 children and 75 wives, will go to Iraq. The rest of the fighters will go to Tunisia and Algeria.

The sources said that among those who boarded the Greek vessels with 'Arafat in Tripoli today were a number of officers and unit commanders who were previously in the dissident ranks and decided recently to return and rejoin the Palestinian legitimacy.

Baghdad PLO Radio Comment

JN201930 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1628 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, our departure from Beirut was painful and heroic. Today we leave Tripoli and our departure is also painful and heroic. It is painful because no one finds anything positive in the revolution's departure from one of its positions. We have to admit that we are losing an important position. We have to endure the difficulty of this admission. We must surmount this loss. We will not talk any further about the fact that a so-called progressive and nationalist state, which claims that it is hoisting the banners of pan-Arabism, has been used as a political and military tool to achieve this departure and loss. This fact is already recorded in history books. History's records are lessons for the future. These records, however, do not determine theshape of the future. We will not talk about the big difference between our departure from Beirut and our departure from Tripoli. The first departure had its own equation: The enemy lost in as much as we gained of heroism and honor. We cannot consider the brothers' losses and condemnation we achieved before the second departure as our own gain and victory. However, this has become part of a comparative study.

As a Palestinian revolution, we have to accept the fact that today we are leaving Tripoli. We have to face the consequences that will follow this painful departure. Did we lose much? Yes, we did. We have left the Lebanese position completely. We have departed from the place that contained all our militant institutions. Now we have to disperse these institutions. We have left the position from which our forces were able to face the enemy in an organized, firm, direct, and public manner. Now we have to face the enemy with methods less organized, firm, direct and open. We have thus left the position that enabled us to attain the world's attention. Now, we have to concentrate on our revolutionaries deeds so they may remain in the spotlight.

Yes, we have lost all that. However, as a result of our power and heroism during the battles we waged beginning from Beirut and until Tripoli, we have not lost any single pillar of our Palestinian revolutionary action. Our militant institutions still exist and act effectively. It is true that these institutions' action will be a little more difficult during the coming stage, but this is not the first time the revolution has faced seemingly insurmountable circumstances. Despite the outside appearance, these institutions enjoy a unity of opinion and liveliness that will help in formulating a plan for the future action and in implementing this plan.

As for the arena of our confrontation with the Zionist enemy, fighting will continue militarily and politically in spite of the Arab security belts around this enemy. It is true that we have left the Lebanese arena, but we still have popular and combatant bases. We do not need to offer any proof to confirm this fact. The proof comes through the daily operations in southern Lebanon. The enemy before the friend realizes that the Palestinian revolution forms the primary factor in these operations. We should not forget in this regard that our first confrontation with the enemy is the confrontation that should take place inside our occupied Palestinian homeland.

The recent developments have only increased our people's national unity and increased their determination to fight.

Since our institutions still exist and our confrontation with the enemy has not ceased, we will always be in the circle of real action, concern, and affection. Yes we have lost a very big and important position. Our experience of our painful loss between Beirut and Tripoli can be tackled. We have to be up to the level of events. We became used to becoming heroes, whether we were in this or that position. Through an organized withdrawal, we were able to preserve our activeness, the unity of our fighters, the soundness and effectiveness of our militant institutions. Despite all that may appear on the surface as a result of the past 7 months'

events, the Palestinian will and potential can surmount all the difficulties, even those that look to be very difficult.

Fatah Uprising Movement Statement

JN202145 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] The revolutionary uprising movement inside the Fatah movement has refuted Yasir 'Arafat's claims that he led 4,000 Palestinian fighters out of the city of Tripoli. The uprising movement said these claims are baseless and fabricated. A responsible source in the Al-'Asifah forces General Command today explained that the number of those who left with 'Arafat did not exceed 1,700 persons, most of whom were non-Palestinians, elements of rightist reactionary forces, and his deviationist aids. The source said that a large number of the Palestinian fighters refused to leave as exiles and preferred to stay in the confrontation trench facing the Zionist enemy. Another group of the fighters joined the Al-'Asifah forces in response to the uprising movement's constant stand.

The source stressed that 'Arafat's departure from Tripoli constitutes a military and political defeat of his scheme. All the information campaigns have failed to transform his defeat into a victory, in accordance with the desire of 'Arafat and his clique.

'Arafat Message to FLN Congress Reported

LD210029 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] The brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the forces of the Palestinian revolution, has sent the following message to the fifth congress of the FLN party now under way in Algiers:

Brother President Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the FLN Party, president of the sister Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, brother conferees:

Greetings from the revolution and struggle. It gives me pleasure to salute you while you are holding your fifth congress and to wish your congress every success and the adoption of resolutions to the level of the challenge the Arab nation is confronting. As we have always come to expect from revolutionary Algeria, it is always with Palestine for better or worse particularly since we are on the verge of the departure from steadfast Tripoli, which will not be the last position of struggle of our Palestinian revolution and of our Palestinian national struggle, which we are determined to continue regardless of sacrifices and no matter how much the conspiratorial forces plot against our march and our just Palestinian cause and our independent national decision.

While living the anniversary of the great Soummam conference, we find in it a lesson and an example, since in Algeria the revolution has succeeded from the first congress of the party to the present one in making huge strides on the road of liberation and independence toward progress in economic, social and struggle terms. It has rightly become the bastion of steadfastness for all the revolutionaries and the free world since it constitutes, as far as the Palestinian cause is concerned, the rock on which we seek shelter when the gales and storms grow fierce and when the forces of evil and tyranny plot against us.

While admiring and appreciating Algeria's role on the Arab, African, and international level, we are confident that revolutionary Algeria — Algeria of the 1.5 million martyrs — will always remain the main pillar and a strategic fountain for the Arab struggle led by the Palestinian struggle.

We give you our pledge, in the name of the martyrs of our Palestinian people, our Arab nation, and in the name of our detainees and prisoners, our cadres, our fighters and in the name of all our dispersed Palestinian people, that we shall not abandon Palestine as a homeland nor the armed struggle as a means for its liberation, no matter how long it takes and irrespective of sacrifices.

Brother conferees, our Palestinian people, who have been to the school of struggle and fought colonialism for more than 60 years, who succeeded in erupting into armed struggle on 1 January 1965 at a time of Arab subjugation and fragmentation, and who successfuly held out with this revolution despite all the plots and the challenges starting with Black September 1970 andpassing through the wars of Lebanon and Tal az-Za'tar up to the Beirut siege when we were alone on the battlefield for 3 months armed only with the faith of the inevitability of triumph, are capable of continuing in these difficult and critical circumstances for us and in these tragic circumstances for the Arab world.

Brother conferees, the fate of the Arab nation, its history, struggle, and culture, and indeed its existence, are in danger because of the fragmentation and the Zionist-imperialist onslaughts aimed at the potential of our Arab nation. Our Palestinian revolution constitutes the spearhead of the resistance and the rejection of capitulation; hence we are being subjected to all these onslaughts and this blatant conspiracy by Zionism and world imperialism and their tools in the Arab region. What the terrorist Sharon failed to achieve — we say this with great regret — is now being achieved at the hands of our brothers. Palestinian national independent decisionmaking, as far as we and our Palestinian people are concerned, has formed the backbone and the main pillar of all our movements. It was a Palestinian dream which our people experienced over the years. Here we see it today as an established fact achieved after a bitter and long struggle. It is being subjected to an operation of assassination and seizure so as to take our struggle and people back to the eras of wandering and oblivion. But we are determined more than ever, with the unshakable determination of revolutionaries, to cling to the independence of our national Palestinian decision and to continue the struggle to achieve the aims of liberation and return of our people.

In my name and in the name of my brothers, members of the PLO Executive Committee, members of the Palestinian National Council, the Central Committee of the Palestinian national liberation movement, Fatah, and in the name of our revolutionaries and our Palestinian masses inside and outside the occupied land, we convey to you and your congress sincerest congratulations and wish you further success and progress.

Long live Palestine, free and Arab! Long live the struggle of our Palestinian people for their liberation! Long live the cohesion in struggle between the Algerian and the Palestinian revolutions! Glory and eternal life for our loyal martyrs! Revolution until victory!

Signed: Your brother, Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, commander in chief of the forces of the Palestinian revolution.

PLO West Bank Operation Reported

JN201728 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Our revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland are escalating their valiant operations against the Zionist enemy's patrols and positions in spite of the enemy's precautious security measures. A group of our heroic revolutionaries carried out a daring attack on a Zionist military patrol as it was passing in the city of Qalqiliyah in the occupied West Bank. The attack, which was carried out with handgrenades, destroyed one of the patrol's vehicles and left several Zionist soldiers killed or wounded.

The enemy forces immediately launched an arrest campaign among the Palestinian citizens under the pretext of their suspected connection with the operation.

BAHRAIN

Moroccan Foreign Minister Departs 20 Dec

GF201647 Manama WAKH in English 1605 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Manama, 20 Dec. (WAKH) — M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan state minister for foreign affairs and envoy of Moroccan King Al Hassan II left here today for Kuwait after a visit to Bahrain as part of his current tour.

He delivered a message to H.H. the amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah from Moroccan king. The message included an invitation to H.H. the amir to attend the Islamic summit to be held in Casablanca, Morocco, on January 16. He was seen off by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah and other officials.

KUWAIT

ARAB TIMES on Investigation of Bombings

GF201228 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 19 Dec 83 p 1

[Excerpts] Ten members of a Muslim fundamentalist group fighting for an Iran-type regime in Iraq have been arrested by Kuwaiti authorities in connection with last Monday's bombings and will appear in court today, it was officially announced yesterday.

The government spokesman, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, said the suspects had all admitted involvement in a 90-minute wave of six bomb attacks in which four people were killed and 61 injured. One additional suspect, also identified as Iraqi, was still at large with police mounting a city-wide hunt for him.

The suicidal driver who smashed his way with a truckload of explosives into the U.S. Embassy and blasted a three-story annex was pronounced killed in the attack. He was identified by his fingerprints as Ra'd 'Uqayl al-Badran, an Iraqi. Husayn told reporters after an emergency cabinet meeting that the saboteurs were to be referred to the state security court today. He declined to say if the defendants would be arraigned then nor would he say whether the trial sessions would be secret or public.

Sources said the charges include murder, illegal possession of explosives and firearms, smuggling weapons into the country, and other unspecified crimes.

The formation of the security court will be decided by the Justice Ministry and the supreme judicial court.

Four U.S. security experts have arrived to assist with the investigation and interrogation of the suspects, U.S. embassy sources said.

One of the suspects now in police custody was identified as the man who prepared the detonation devices which, informed sources said, were attached to butane gas cylinders that blasted the U.S. Embassy's administrative annex. The same man, these sources said, also provided the device that set off the booby-trapped car which blew up a wall in the French Embassy building.

Huge caches of arms and ammunition were seized by security officers from three houses used by the suspects. The weapons, including cartridges and magazines, bullets, shells, rifles and revolvers, and detonators, were found in the houses in Sabah as-Salim, Julayb ash-Shiyukh and Al-Firdaws.

Responding to a question, Husayn said the weapons and bombs were smuggled into Kuwait by sea concealed inside gas cylinders and fuel oil barrels.

"They spent two months hatching the plot of the attacks," he said. "These blasts constitute a lesson to this generation and posterity."

Husayn stressed that the government was in the process of instituting security measures that will make "terrorists think a thousand times before risking another attack" on local targets. A Kuwaiti official, meanwhile, asked the government to relocate the U.S. and other embassies in one diplomatic area where "security precautions can be tightened."

Ibrahim Makki, director of the Kuwaiti ports, told local newspapers that the existing location of the U.S. embassy must be reconsidered, and former U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait, Francois Dickman, has said that the embassy location was not secure.

The U.S. Embassy has announced the suspension of consular services to non-Americans until further notice. A spokesman advised Kuwaitis and foreign residents wishing to travel to the United States to obtain visas from U.S. embassies in Western European capitals. He recommended the U.S. Embassy in London.

Iranian Embassy Denounces Police Action

GF201930 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] The Iranian Embassy in Kuwait today delivered a memorandum to the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry denouncing a Kuwaiti police storming, without any legal justification, of the residence of the Iranian political attache. The memorandum, submitted after the Kuwaiti police stormed the residence of the Iranian political attache in Kuwait at midnight yesterday, affirmed that such acts are a blatant violation of international law and the Vienna Charter and that is why we condemn them.

PDRY

YSP Chairman Receives Message From USSR Leaders

GF191426 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and the chairman of the Council of

Ministers, this morning received Comrade Vladislav Petrovich Zhukov, USSR ambassador to the PDRY, who conveyed to him a message from the Soviet leaders dealing with bilateral relations and the developments in the Middle East region.

The brother secretary general reiterated that the PDRY is proud of its developing relations with the USSR, which has been and is still a devoted friend of our Arab people's struggle and of all nations which adhere to peace, progress, and freedom.

Defense Minister Receives BCP Official

GF201900 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Brigadier General Salih Muslih Qasim, member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of defense, this morning received the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] Delegation headed by General Balev, member of the Central Committee and director of the Military and Security Department of the BCP Secretariat. During the meeting, the two parties exchanged views on enhancing relations between the two friendly parties, and on the exchange of expertise in military construction and political action of the armed forces of the two countries. The two sides noted the dangerous imperialist moves and condemned them. They affirmed the necessity to confront them through solidarity, liberation, and a just peace.

YAR Information Minister Leaves Aden

GF162028 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Hasan al-Lawzi, minister of information and culture in the northern part of the homeland, has left Aden after a short visit to the southern part.

ANA has learned that Hasan al-Lawzi is carrying a reply message from 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, to Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress in the northern part of the homeland, on the unity efforts between the political leaderships of the two parts and the means to strengthen the cooperation between them, in light of Arab issues, particularly the Palestinian issue.

He was seen off by Rashid Muhammad Thabit, member of the YSP Central Committee and culture and tourism minister.

QATAR

Amir, Indian President Hold Talks 19 Dec

GF191104 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] Official talks between the State of Qatar and the Republic of India were held at the Doha Palace at 0930 today. The Qatari side in these talks was headed by Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, while the Indian side was headed by Indian President His Excellency Zail Singh. The talks were attended on the Qatari side by Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs; Khalid Muhammad al-Mani', minister of public health and chairman of the protocol mission escorting the Indian President; 'Isa Ghanim al-Kuwari, minister of information; and Dr Hasan an-Na'mah, Qatari ambassador in India. The talks were attended on the Indian side by the members of the official delegation accompanying the visiting president.

The talks centered on the developments of the current situation in the Middle East region, especially on the Lebanese and Palestinian arenas, the situation in the Gulf region and Indian Ocean, and the resolutions of the nonaligned summit conference which was held in New Delhi last March. The talks also dealt with the means of developing the strong relations and solid bonds between the two countries and the two friendly peoples in all fields, in addition to a number of issues of mutual concern.

QNA has learned that the views were identical on all the matters and issues discussed during this session, in which the two sides expressed their common wish to develop the longstandings relations of friendship between them for the benefit of the two countries and the two friendly peoples. The agency has also learned that his highness the amir hailed India's constant position in support of the Arab issues, foremost of which is the Palestinian issue, and the efforts made by it to settle the Iraqi-Iranian conflict in a peaceful way through the nonaligned committee formed to bring an end to this war.

Indian President Departs

GF201722 Manama WAKH in English 1640 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Doha, 20 Dec (WAKH) — Indian President Giani Zail Singh left here this afternoon after a three-day visit to Qatar.

Present at the airport to bid him farewell was H.H. the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani.

During the visit, Mr. Singh held talks with H.H. Shaykh Khalifah dealing with bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

In an interview with the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, the Indian president expressed satisfaction over the outcome of his talks in Qatar and showed admiration for Qatari development programmes currently implemented in cooperation with Indian manpower.

He stressed the necessity of collective work to further boost cooperation between the two countries.

Qatari state minister for foreign affairs Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani said that the talks focussed on current developements in Gulf region, Indian Ocean and Middle East.

In a press statement he said that the two sides views were identical on all key international issues. They expressed their

grave concern regarding the deterioration in the situation in the Middle East and the continuation of Iraq-Iran war.

The two sides said that a durable and permanent peace in Middle East can only be achieved if it is only based on recognition of the Palestinian peoples right to self determination in setting up their independence state.

They called for efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war.

Amir Receives FRG State Minister

GF210930 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Doha, 21 Dec (WAKH) — Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani today received FRG Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Jurgen Molleman, who is currently visiting Doha. During the audience the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and a number of current Arab and international issues, foremost of which is the developments of the Middle East issue.

The FRG minister arrived in Doha yesterday on a 2-day visit to Qatar within a tour of a number of region countries.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Fahd Briefs Council on Tripoli Evacuation

LD192248 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Riyadh 19 Dec — King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz this evening chaired a meeting of the Council of Ministers.

After the meeting, the minister of information, 'Ali Hasan ash-Sha'ir, told SPA and television that after a general review of the most prominent events and new developments in the Arab region, the king briefed the Council of Ministers. He discussed the results of contacts and talks conducted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the week with leaders of certain sister Arab states on questions of the hour — the results of continuous efforts and endeavors for the continuation and consolidation of the cease-fire throughout Lebanon and ensuring the safe departure of the Palestinian brothers from the city of Tripoli to certan Arab capitals. His majesty the king has expressed to the council his deep satisfaction with the result of the visit of Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal to Damascus yesterday and the good response his highness received from Syrian brothers.

The minister of information said that at the guidance of his majesty the king the council then heard a brief report by Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers, about the results reached by the Conference of the Islamic Foreign Ministers in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh and topics discussed at the conference.

Communications Accord Signed With Taiwan

LD201332 Riyadh SPA in English 1230 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 20, SPA — Lien Chan, Communications Minister of the Republic of China and his Saudi counterpart Husayn al-Mansuri signed here today an accord to promote cooperation between communication ministeries of the two countries, it was announced here today. After the signing of the accord, Mansuri told SPA that the accord provided for supplying the Kingdom with Chinese experts and technicicans in the field of transportation and road. He said the accord aimed at enhancing cooperation between the two friendly countries in line with directives of HM King Fahd and Crown Prince 'Abdallah to further strengthen ties between them.

Deputy Minister on Coordination With Kuwait

GF201630 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Riyadh, 20 Dec (WAKH) — Saudi Deputy Interior Minister Prince Ahmad ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has said there is a security coordination between the Kingdom and Kuwait since a long time which reflected close cooperation in circumstances such as recent blasts in Kuwait.

The security and stability of Kuwait is of prime concern to the Kingdom, Prince Ahmad said in a statement published today by *AL-JAZIRAH newspaper and the Kuwaiti based AL-QABAS* daily.

Cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait exists in all political, economic, and security domains which demonstrate the strong cohesion now prevalent between the two countries, he added.

Prince Ahmad deplored what he called sabotage incidents in Kuwait last week and said the choice of Kuwait as a target for such an action totally contradicted with its positive stands in support of Arab and Islamic issues and defence of Islamic holy places.

He said it was the right of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council to defend itself against any attempts or plots aimed at destabilising the nation.

The deputy interior minister called for activating security cooperation against any designs aiming at disturbing the council states security and urged them to strengthen further security cooperation among them to ensure progress and welfare.

King Fahd Meets With Habib Chatti

LD210316 Riyadh SPA in English 1902 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 20, SPA — HM King Fahd received at the Royal Palace here today Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference. The audience was attended by foreign undersecretary for political affairs 'Abd ar-Rahman Mansuri.

After the audience Chatti told the SAUDI PRESS AGENCY that he reviewed with King Fahd the important Islamic-Arab issues which will be discussed by the fourth Islamic summit to be held in Casablanca on January 16.

Ever since HM King Fahd took the chairmanship of the current

session of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, Chatti said many basic achievements were made which would have their effects on the Islamic nation and its solidarity and fraternity. The secretary general underlined HM King Fahd's keenness to serve Islamic causes foremost among them was the Jerusalem issue. Chatti hoped that the upcoming Islamic summit would toe the third summit's line.

UAE

Zayid Receives British Minister Luce

GF201334Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] His Highness the president, Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, received in his Al-Mushrif Palace this morning Richard Luce, British minister of state for foreign affairs.

After the meeting, the British minister said they discussed during the meeting developments in the Gulf situation, the Iraqi-Iranian war and Arab and international issues of mutual interest. The UAE and Britain have a common concern for peace, stability and security to prevail in the Gulf region, Luce said. Luce praised cooperation and relations between the two countries and described them as strong and solid relations which are developing in various fields.

The meeting was attended by Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi, the president's representative; Ahmad ibn Hamid, minister of information and culture; Dr. Man'i Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and natural resources; Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Harold Walker, British ambassador to the UAE.

President Receives FRG Foreign Ministry Official

GF201334 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the state, today receive at Al-Mushrif Palace Jurgen Mollemann, the FRG minister of state for foreign affairs, who is currently visiting the UAE. During the meeting, they reveiwed the situation in the Middle East, the new developments in the region, and the Iraqi-Iranian war.

FRG Minister Meets Press

GF201852 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1725 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Dubayy, 20 Dec (WAM) — FRG Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Jurgen Mollemann has held a press conference at the conclusion of his visit to the UAE.

He said during his visit to the UAE he discussed enhancing cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the economic field, noting that an economic delegation from his country representing various economic sectors, will come back to the UAE in April to discuss the expansion of cooperation.

Talking about his country's stand vis-a-vis a number of issues, the FRG minister expressed his country's support for the Lebanese Government in the need for foreign troops withdrawal from Lebanon and in imposing its legitimate control all over Lebanon. He said his government does not understand Israel's stand of obstructing the departure of the Palestinian fighters loyal to Yasir 'Arafat from Tripoli.

On the Iraqi-Iranian war, the FRG minister said the views of the UAE and FRG Governments were identical regarding the need to stop this war and to make efforts to end it through peaceful means in the framework of Security Council resolutions.

The FRG minister emphasized that the Arab-Israeli conflict cannot be resolved before confirming the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. On his government's behalf, he welcomed any efforts that might be exerted to resolve this conflict to benefit the region's peoples.

Mollemann noted the need to recognize the right of all countries and peoples to live within secured and recognized borders, including Israel, and the need to end the state of war between the Arabs and Israel and the return to negotiations.

The FRG minister called for authorizing King Husayn of Jordan to negotiate with Israel — within coordination between the Arab Fes plan and the Reagan plan for peace and on the basis of the Venice declaration, which was issued by the European countries — provided that King Husayn receive support in these negotiations from Europe, the Arab countries, and Israel.

Mollemann said Israel refuses to negotiate with the PLO, noting in this regard that King Husayn can enter negotiations with Israel in a unified delegation that would include dignitaries and personalities from the Palestinian people who are living in the West Bank and Jordan. He said peace between the Arabs and Israel cannot be achieved except through negotiations. He asserted the need for Egypt's return to the Arab ranks to bolster the Arabs' stand in any future negotiations with Israel.

YAR

President Receives PDRY, Syrian Messages

GF210510 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received this evening Husayn ad-Daf'i, the president's adviser on unity affairs and member of the Standing Committee, who conveyed to him a message from his brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Suprme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers in the southern part of the homeland, in reply to the message which Brother ad-Daf'i conveyed to him during a meeting with him in Aden today. The message deals with coordination and contacts between the two parts on the latest Arab developments.

Earlier today, the brother president received Ahmad ash-Shijni, minister of state for Cabinet affairs and member of the Standing Committee, who conveyed to him a reply message from his brother Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad which contained the gratitude and thanks of the Syrian president, government, and people for the brother president and the Yemeni Government and people for the sincere stands on Arab issues and on what fraternal Syria is facing.

'Ali, Shultz Confer in Washington on Middle East

NC201216 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1128 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Washington, 20 Dec (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held his first round of talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz less than an hour after arriving in Washington yesterday evening at 1700 Washington time. Both sides reviewed the present state of affairs as far as the Lebanese and Palestinian issues, and the situation in Tripoli are concerned.

At the conclusion of that session with Shultz, 'Ali stated that their discussion had centered on the situation in Tripoli and the pressing need to ensure the departure of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and his supporters from that city.

The deputy prime minister added that these discussions — which took place at the State Department — helped to prepare an agenda for the second round of talks that the Egyptian and U.S. sides will hold today in either the conference hall or at the working luncheon Shultz will give in honor of the Egyptian foreign minister and delegation accompanying him.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali has described his visit to Washington as "urgent," saying it has been dictated by recent developments in the Middle East, particularly in Lebanon. He also described this visit as a continuation of the exchange of views between Egypt and the United States, particularly between the Egyptian and U.S. presidents through the letters they send each other.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali noted that the United States is in constant contact with Israel regarding the safe exit of Yasir 'Arafat and his supporters from Tripoli, adding that other states are also participating in these contacts with Israel, including France and Greece. He said: Egypt is in constant touch with the Palestinians regarding daily developments, particularly in Tripoli.

Referring to the visit that U.S. Ambassador to the Middle East Donald Rumsfeld has made to Baghdad, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: We consider this visit a new development in U.S.-Iraqi relations geared to ending the Iraqi-Iranian war.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali is scheduled to meet today with Charles Percy, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Ghali on 'Fruitful' Talks With SFRY Visitors

NC201504 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 20 Dec (MENA) — The Egyptian and Yugoslav sides have resumed their talks which began yesterday. The Egyptian side is headed by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Yugoslav side by Lazar Mojsov, federal secretary for foreign affairs. Attending the talks on the Egyptian side are Ambassador 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, assistant foreign minister; Ambassador 'Ali Shawqi al-Hadidi, director of the Cultural Department at the Foreign Ministry; Ambassador 'Abd ar-Ra'uf ar-Raydi, director of the Committees Department; Mamduh 'Abd ar-Raziq, Egyptian ambassador in Belgrade; Ambassador Mukhlis Jubbah, director of the Economic Department; and 'Ali Mahir, head of Dr Ghali's office. Attending on the Yugoslav side are the Yugoslav federal secretary for foreign affair's accompanying delegation and Yugoslav ambassador in Cairo Lazar Zivulj.

Both sides completed their discussions during the session on the various international situations in light of the new cold war which threatens world peace and security, and the regional conflicts which have emerged in various parts of the world, primarily the Iranian-Iraqi war; the situation in the Middle East, particularly in Lebanon; aspects of the Palestinian problem; the Chadian and Namibian issues; and the disturbances and disputes in Central America. The Egyptian minister for foreign affairs and his Yugoslav counterpart held a second and last round of talks in the presence of the two delegations for 90 minutes.

Following the meeting, Dr Ghali stated that the talks were positive and extremely fruitful and have led to an agreement on a joint Egyptian-Yugoslav plan to participate in finding a solution to the Middle East problem and international issues that threaten world peace and security. He said that both sides discussed such international issues as disarmament, the new cold war between the Eastern and Western camps, and such regional conflicts as the confrontation between Somalia and Ethiopia; the differences between Morocco and Algeria; the Iraqi-Iranian war; the intervention in Chad; disturbances in Central America; and the points of contention between North and South Korea.

Ghali also said that the talks revealed an identity of views between the Egyptian and Yugoslav sides due to their faith in and adherence to the nonaligned policy, which calls for adherents to use all means to find peaceful solutions of problems and their participation in reducing tension between the East and West. He said: We hope that a meeting will take place between the U.S. secretary of state and the Soviet foreign minister during the international conference in Stockholm, scheduled to convene in the middle of January at the foreign ministers level. He said that the nonaligned and peace-loving countries are exerting their utmost to bring this meeting about, which we hope will begin to reducethe tension between East and West. This is particularly so since the goals of the nonaligned policy are to contribute to this end and bring about peaceful coexistence between the Eastern and Western camps, to establish world peace, and reduce tension.

Ghali added that the talks also dealt with bilateral cooperation and coordination, particularly within the framework of the United Nations, especially since Egypt has become a member of the Security Council, and coordination between them at the conferences that will be held next year regarding both international cooperation in various spheres and disarmament. The Yugoslav guest will leave Cairo this afternoon for Luxor to visit its antiquities. He will return to Cairo Wednesday and leave from there Thursday morning for home.

Mika Early 1984 Visit

NC201510 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 20 Dec (MENA) — Spiljak Mika, president of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, will visit Egypt in early 1984. This was stated today by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, who said that a date for the visit is currently

being determined. Ghali said that Yugoslav Federal Secretary for National Defense, General Branko Mamula, will arrive in Cairo in the second half of January for talks with Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and defense minister.

Ghali further stated that it has been decided to convene a meeting of an Egyptian-Yugoslav committee in Belgrade in the next few weeks to bolster bilateral cooperation in the economic field, increase the volume of trade, and obtain Yugoslav participation in a number of development projects in Egypt.

As-Sa'id Takes Mubarak Message to Husayn

NC201940 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 20 Dec (MENA) — Dr Mustafa as-Sa'id, minister of economy and foreign trade, left Cairo for Amman this evening heading a delegation on a 4-day visit to Jordan during which he will convey an oral message to King Husayn from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

In a predeparture statement, Dr as-Sa'id said the visit is part of the overall Egyptian political and economic policy aimed at restoring Egypt's economic relations [with the Arab world] to their normal status. He said he will sign a trade protocol with Jordan the day after tomorrow, Thursday, and will discuss the list of commodities that will be exempted from customs. The minister added that he will also discuss the status of the Arab land bank. The delegation includes a number of officials representing the central bank, the Arab land bank, and the Bank of Alexandria.

Mubarak: U.S. Should Begin Dialogue With PLO

PM202030 Cairo MAY in Arabic 19 Dec 83 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Mubarak: Egypt Obtained Guarantees for Palestinians' Departure from Tripoli: President Declares: We Welcome Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo"]

[Text] Following his 1 and 1/2 hour meeting yesterday with U.S. envoy Donald Rumsfeld, President Husni Mubarak declared that Egypt has obtained guarantees for the departure of Palestinians from Lebanon. The President said: We have exerted efforts in this regard and have sent planes to transport the Palestinian wounded.

Replying to a question regarding the message he received from President Reagan and whether it contained anything new in connection with assurances concerning the [U.S.-Israeli] strategic agreement and whether it will have adverse effects, the president said: I have not yet read the message, and anyway, we will contact the United States after the Christmas holidays. We will exchange messages in order to explain the present situation and exchange views regarding matters of interest for the area. Asked whether his excellency was satisfied with what the U.S. envoy conveyed to him, he said that the Rumsfeld merely reported on his trip to the area. Asked about the strategic cooperation agreement between Israel and the United States, which he previously described as a disaster and embarrassment for the United States' friends in the area, and whether after being briefed on the U.S. view regarding this matter he continues to see the agreement as a disaster, the President said: I believe that the background to the situation has become clearer, but we are still exchanging views in this regard.

Asked what he believes the next step the Palestinians should take, President Husni Mubarak said: We must encourage them to cooperate with King Husayn by establishing a link with him and giving momentum to Reagan's peace initiative in the Middle East.

Asked whether the U.S. has made a new pledge for achieving a comprehensive settlement, the president said: The Americans have already made such a pledge and we are encouraging them to begin a dialogue with the Palestinians in order to reach a result that will initiate a real solution for this problem.

Asked about his readiness to receive Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo, President Mubarak said that he would welcome a meeting with 'Arafat any time if he so wishes.

Regarding continuing the dialogue with President Reagan and the possibility of a meeting between the two presidents, he said that no specific plan for such a meeting presently exists.

Asked about the contacts which Egypt is carrying out with both the Arab countries and major powers concerned, he said: We have held many contacts with Arab and non-Arab countries, including the United States, and discussed the situation in Tripoli. We obtained certain guarantees to ensure the departure of the Palestinians some time ago.

Regarding the possibility of encouraging a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, and whether the PLO is the party which should represent the Palestinians side in such a dialogue, the President said: Yes, this is our view.

Asked whether there was sufficient time for the Palestinians and Jordanians to hold contacts in order to settle the Palestine problem, the President said: We have no lost hope thus far. We must strive and increase our efforts in the hope of reaching a solution. We are exerting efforts in all spheres in the hope of reaching a solution to the Palestine problem despite its deterioration.

The president said: It has always been our view that the Palestinians should not depart [from Lebanon] without the hope of returning home. We still hold to this view.

Importance of Arab-European Dialogue

NC201248 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1118 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 20 Dec (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met this morning with the conferees attending the 3-day Arab-European Dialogue Conference which began its sessions in Cairo on 18 December. The conference is being attended by delegates from 11 Arab states, UNESCO, the FRG, the African Radio and Television Union, and the UN Economic Commission.

Safwat ash-Sharif, minister of state, and Dr Mamduh al-Biltaji, chairman of the Public Information Authority, also attended the meeting.

Following the meeting, Safwat ash-Sharif stated that the president had explained the Palestinian issue and Egypt's role in this respect to those attending the Arab-European Dialogue Conference. He also clarified the European support and the identity of views existing between Europe and all of the Arab states on the Palestinian issue.

In his address, the president dealt with the Arab-European dialogue and its importance. He emphasized that Egypt is Arab, acts to the benefit of its Arab nation, and will never forsake its Arab causes. Safwat ash-Sharif said that the president stressed the importance of putting the Arab house in order, as well as the Arab-European dialogue [as received] so that we will also be able to hold a dialogue with our European friends.

Safwat ash-Sharif added that the president answered numerous questions at the meeting on Arab-European and Egyptian-European relations, particularly Egypt's relations with the FRG, the United Kingdom, and France, which he described as close and strong. The president affirmed that the Arab nation has the potential to play a role in this Arab-European dialogue.

Safwat ash-Sharif concluded by saying that President Mubarak spoke of his excellency's halting the [Egyptian] information media campaigns [against other Arab states] as soon as he assumed his responsibilities as president. He said: It is imperative that a common language for dialogue exists and that progress be made in creating a good Arab atmosphere for a dialogue.

SLP Leader Criticizes U.S.-Israeli Pact

PM172123 Cairo ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Dec 83 p 2

['Imad Mahjub report: "Ibrahim Shukri at the party's weekly meeting: Following the revival of the U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement, the government should reconsider its position on Camp David"]

[Excerpts] Socialist Labor Party [SLP] leader engineer Ibrahim Shukri has urged the government to reconsider its position on the Camp David agreements following the revival of the U.S.-Israeli strategic pact which, he said, is tantamount to U.S. support for Israeli attempts to impose its will on the Arab region.

He reiterated that a solution to the Palestinian problem should be sought under UN and not United States auspices since it is no longer qualified to play the role of full partner in view of this strategic agreement.

Ibrahim Shukri was speaking at the party's weekly meeting which was scheduled to discuss human rights on the occasion of the anniversary of the 1948 Declaration on Human Rights. Speaking at the beginning of the meeting on the U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement, Shukri said: The aim of the agreement is to enable Israel to control the region with U.S. assistance. The SLP has already issued a statement condemning the agreement because the seriousness of the matter necessitated a specific party stand. It was the first clear and frank statement by any sector on this issue.

He added: Certainly President Mubarak has made some positive statements which we have welcomed, but Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din's statement on behalf of the government was sparingly and leniently worded regarding consultations with the United States on the matter. The statements by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali likewise did not match the president's statements which considered the agreement a breach of U.S. neutrality.

The entire issue should go back to the United Nations and a solution should be sought under its, and not U.S. auspices. Furthermore, we advise the government to reconsider its position on the Camp David agreements.

Paper Denounces Syrian-Libyan 'Conspiracy'

PM201502 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 19 Dec 83 pp 24, 25

['Abd as-Sattar At-Tawilah article: "Political Adolescence and the Export of Terror"]

[Text] On leaving Damascus last week, 'Abd As-Salam Jallud, the second most powerful man in the Libyan regime, surprised journalists with a strange statement when he was asked on his view regarding Israel's siege of the port of Tripoli and its threat to attack 'Arafat forces when they are on the high seas on board Greek ships. Jallud said: "This is Israeli playacting to promote 'Arafat's position. Israel does not want to liquidate him.

Thus the Libyan regime is not satisfied with joining Syria in smashing the PLO, deepening the rift within it, and instigating Palestians to kill each other in a manner that goes beyond the dreams of Israel, the United States, and any foe of the Palestinian liberation movement.

The Libyan regime, as indicated by Jallud's statement, goes even a step further in directly aiding Israel by covering up its hostile objectives against the PLO. It alleges that Sharon's statement that 'Arafat should not leave Tripoli alive and Prime Minister Shamir's statement that Israel should not allow the PLO to once again raise its head, which were accompanied with the dispatch of Israeli warships to lay siege to the port and shell Palestinian positions, are demagogic and without any seriousness.

It is strange that at a time when international and Arabpressures are being exerted on the United States to instruct Israel not to attack the Palestinian forces during their departure from Tripoli, an Arab leader should throw cold water on all these efforts by alleging that Israel's actions are playacting. Is there a better defense of or service to Israel than this?

The excuse of the Libyan and Syrian regimes and their supporters is that 'Arafat is a moderate, and that Israel much prefers a moderate leader to the "extremist revolutionary" leaders which the Syrian and Libyan media reports on. But the abc of politics learned from the experience of dealing with Israel shows that Israel, which usurped Palestinian lands in 1967, has never, nor

will ever accept or agree to recognize the PLO, moderate or extremist. If the opposite had been the case, it would have agreed to negotiate with 'Arafat when the PLO was strong and close to winning international recognition.

Now that the Syrian and Libyan regimes have hatched the conspiracy to provoke Palestinian division and internecine fighting, as a result of which the PLO has been materially, militarily, and morally weakened and its influence in the world diminished, it is in Israel's interest to finish it off, and particularly 'Arafat, the symbol of the Palestinian people's resolve to secure their right to self-determination.

Doesn't Abd as-Salam Jallud see what the occupying Israelis are doing to the inhabitants and mayors of the West Bank? It is a known fact that the majority of the West Bank population recognizesthe existence of the State of Israel and calls for coexistence with it, as do the majority of West Bank mayors. They do not cling to illusory slogans such as wiping out Israel, or establishing a secular state, and so on.

Nevertheless, Israel represses the West Bank inhabitants, demolishes their houses, and expels their leaders and mayors despite their moderation. Why? Because they never did nor ever will renounce their demand for the right of the Palestinians to self-determination. This is what Israel rejects and refuses even up to this day. The Syrians, Libyans, and dissident Palestinians are helping Israel to continue adhering to this stand and pursue an even harder line. It is this Arab and Palestinian division and this childish Arab political thinking that encourages the Palestinians to fight one another instead of the enemy. In fact, one of the most serious results of the Syrian-Libyan conspiracy against the Palestinian people and PLO is that a large number of Palestinians and their supporters have become frustrated and disappointed to the extent that they are pushing toward desperate actions and irresponsible adventures. Indeed, it drives some adventurist, terrorist elements inside and outside the Arab area to commit terrible actions that will do away with what remains of theworld's support for and sympathy with the Palestinian people's problem.

A look at what happened this week in Kuwait confirms the prediction we made 2 weeks ago in about the escalation of terrorist actions — both indigenous and foreign exported. The situation is chaotic: The Arabs are fragmented; the Palestinians are fighting one another; Iranian Islamic guards arrive in Lebanon; the Americans shell Lebanese and Palestinian positions and the French also take part in the shelling; and war between Baghdad and Tehran continues while the Islamic world is incapable of adopting a single resolution regarding the halt to fighting between the two Islamic states.

In this gloomy situation the door is being opened wide to foreign powers and international gangs in order to spread corruption and create even more confusion and chaos. No Egyptian can fail to thank God that Egypt is far removed from all this chaotic terror. We must admit that this is a result ofthe Egyptian regime and prudence of President Husni Mubarak. He has been able to create for us the only island of safety and security in the region, while raising aloft the banner of democracy and freedom. We must also thank Minister of the Interior Hasan Abu Basha for his proficiency, skill, and vigilance in shielding Egypt from the destructive terror.

It remains for Egypt to play a positive role to end this chaos in the Arab and Palestinian worlds. An Egyptian initiative is required in this regard. The area has lost Egypt's leading role, and as a result, the door has been opened wide to the rule of political adolescence, bloody terror, and loss.

Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,316

JN201642 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA) — The Iraqi Armed Forces have killed six Iranian enemy soldiers and wounded others. This was reported tonight in Communique No 1,316 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. The communique said that the forward Iraqi units east of Basra have attacked a number of enemy personnel and destroyed one vehicle. The Iraqis also used various kinds of weapons against an enemy concentration opposite their positions in the northern sector of the front destroying an enemy infantry position and killing or wounding those manning it. The communique also said that Iranian artillery today shelled Mandali and its suburbs damaging a number of civilian establishments. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,316 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The soldiers of principles and truth are continuing their daring operations against the forces of the gang of aggression and tyranny ruling in Iran. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Sighting a group of enemy soldiers opposite its forward positions in the central sector of the front, one of our units opened fire killing three and wounding others. In another area of the same sector, one of our forward units attacked an enemy patrol and forced its members to flee.

2. Our forward units opened fire on a number of enemy soldiers opposite our positions in the area east of Basra killing two soldiers, wounding others, and destroying one vehicle.

3. Using various kinds of weapons, our forward units attacked an enemy concentration opposite their positions in the northern sector of the front killing one soldier and destroying one infantry position. Those manning the infantry positions were either killed or wounded.

4. The Iranian clique of evil and rancor today shelled Mandali and its suburbs with artillery damaging a number of civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 December 1983

Assembly Speaker Receives APU Secretary General

JN191715 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Na'im Haddad this afternoon received 'Abd ar-Rahman Burawi, secretary general of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU]. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the preparations for convening an emergency session of the APU Council, particularly the determination of its date and venue. The APU emergency session will discuss the serious situation through which the Palestinian revolution is passing. They also discussed the need for the APU to shoulder its responsibilities in fulfilling the objectives and principles for which it was established.

Na'im Haddad explained that the conspirators, those who betrayed the nation, are pursuing the implementation of their vile crime and that the Arabs cannot remain silent about the slaughtering of our Palestinian Arab people, the liquidation of their just cause, and the confiscation of their independent national decisionmaking.

The Iraqi National Assembly had previously called for convening the above mentioned meeting to discuss the dimensions of the Syrian-Libyan conspiracy against the Palestinian people.

'Abd ar-Rahman Burawi arrived in Baghdad yesterday.

APU Secretary General Departs

JN200816 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA) — Dr 'Abd ar-Rahman Burawi, secretary general of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU], left Baghdad today at the end of a 4-day visit.

Dr Burawi told INA that he and National Assembly Speaker Na'im Haddad discussed preparatory measures for holding an emergency session of the APU Council on the events in northern Lebanon and the situation in the Palestinian arena.

Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Arrives on Visit

JN192022 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2010 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA) — Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Ion Nicolae arrived in Baghdad this evening at the head of a delegation on a visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Ion Nicolae said that he will deliver a message to President Saddam Husayn from Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. He added that during his visit, he will discuss ways to implement what was agreed on during the recent visit to Romania by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, with the purpose of expanding the scope of cooperation between the two friendly countries in the sphere of economy and trade in service of the two friendly peoples' interest.

Meets With Trade Minister

JN201216 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA) — Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister, received here today Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Ion Nicoale. They discussed economic and trade relations between the two countries and implementing the minutes of the extraordinary session of the joint Iraqi-Romanian committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation signed in Bucharest last month.

Confers With Oil Minister

JN201548 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA) — Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi met here today with Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Ion Nicolae and his delegation.

During the meeting, they reviewed the existing cooperation between Iraq and Romania in implementing oil projects. They also exchanged viewpoints on means of strengthening cooperation to serve both countries' mutual interests.

Information Minister Receives Bulgarian Official

JN201213 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0958 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA) — Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim received here today Nikolayev, Bulgarian Foreign Ministry under secretary for cultural affairs [name and title as received]. They discussed the firm relations between the two friendly countries and the means for promoting them in the fields of culture and information.

Prince Hasan, General Receive Senator Dodd
JN201720 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received in his office today U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd. They discussed the situation in the Middle East in general and in the occupied Arab territories in particular as well as the Israeli settlement policy in the occupied territories. The U.S. charge d'affaires in Amman attended the meeting.

Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Talib received Senator Dodd at the Army's General Command today.

Dailies on Palestinian Departure from Tripoli
JN210911 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 21 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "What Next," *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* says: The departure of the Palestinians from Lebanon was used by more than one party on the Lebanese, Israeli, and Arab levels as a political card in the Middle East game. Before the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June last year, and until their departure from Beirut, the Lebanese held the Palestinians responsible for what is taking place in Lebanon. The Israelis established their political presence in Lebanon on the basis of the presence of the Palestinian resistance and invaded that country on the pretext of destroying that presence. The Syrians saw in the armed Palestinian presence on the contact lines with Israel in Al-Biqa' a danger that could cause a war between Syria and Israel. This is something that Damascus avoids as much as it fears.

However, the Palestinians' departure from Lebanon will not settle the Lebanese problems, will not guarantee Israel's security, or put Syria in a confortable position in Lebanon. The Lebanese crisis goes far beyond the Palestinian presence in Lebanon and is more comprehensive than merely holding one party responsible. The Palestinians' departure is the outcome of a plan to which more than one party has contributed. Every party has played its role in full. This role began in enemy hands and ended in Arab hands.

The paper adds: It is not important now to explore the facts of what has taken place because time will tell. What is important is what is in the mind of the man wandering aimlessly on board a Greek ship in the Mediterranean — a man possessing no weapon other than the freedom of decision and legitimacy to represent a people who have suffered a great deal and have bled time and again. The experience has not been easy and the lesson was very hard. The lesson was very hard, especially as this man realizes that running after slogans, embarking on pan-Arab deviations, and ignoring the situation and priorities will always lead to a departure like the current one.

It is time now to radically change the Palestinian struggle into an effective political battle to liberate the occupied territory — a battle which is just as important as the battle for liberating the will and decision for which many martyrs have sacrificed. It is time for a brave stand based on the 16-month experience that constitutes a dividing line between the siege of Beirut and the siege of Tripoli, just as it constitutes a dividing line between what is possible and what is impossible.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B concludes: If this is the stage of the difficult decision, then the departure does not mean the end of the question. Action within the framework of the political option after the disappearnace of the prospects of the military option is not an obligation but a responsibility that the Palestinian leadership must assume toward its people, who have been under occupation for more than 16 years or have suffered displacement in the diaspora, especially since various crises have sorted out positions and revealed the intentions of all who have dealt with or through the revolution.

AR-RA'Y says: If anyone sees the departure of the Palestinian resistance from Tripoli as a deviation from the norm, we do not, because the Arab situation, fragmentation, and deterioration could not produce worse results that what Tripoli port witnessed yesterday. The extent of the conspiracy against this nation involves more than evacuating an Arab citizen from his land and more than chasing and besieging those who dream of an independent and lofty Arab homeland that rejects all forms of humiliation.

The paper adds: The Palestinian resistance has succeeded in confirming the only alternative that can protect the Arab presence and build its future. This is why the plot was focused on it. The hostile parties do not want a national identity for this nation. They believe that even one rifle in one Arab hand is a serious matter that threatens regional, sectarian, and colonialist interests and all the alliances that reject this nation's awakening. In light of this, we see in the departure of the Palestinian resistance from Tripoli a message addressed to all those who reject capitulation and submission to conditions and hegemony and a call for rebuilding the intrinsic Arab power.

AR-RA'Y concludes: We are not at all saddened by the departure of Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and his patient, faithful, and brave men from Tripoli. Neither do we see in this departure an end to the Palestinian people's aspiration or a submission to the programs of Zionism and enemies who lie in wait for anything and anyone who is Arab. Since the beginning of this century, the Palestinian people have been confronting challenges with sacrifice and conspiracies with blood and patience. Since the usurpation of Palestine, the Palestinian people have been able to keep their question alive and vital.

Radio Analyzes Attempt To Contain PLO

JN201850 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Dec 83

["Today's Talk"]

[Text] What took place in Tripoli during the last few weeks and which led to the departure of the PLO and its armed forces to the Arab disspora once again has clearly exposed the objectives of the Arab and Israeli forces which assumed this task from the very beginning. After the departure from Beirut, one of the dangerous aspects that emerged was the attempt to contain and control the PLO by the Syrian regime and its extremist agents inside the PLO. In order to achieve this containment, the Palestinian bases, offices, and forces in Syria and Al-Biqa' were liquidated and Tripoli — the last stronghold of the Palestinian forces in Syria and Lebanon — was besieged. We have always said any successful attempt to contain the PLO by the Syrian regime will impose restrictions on the PLO's independent political action and status as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It will also deprive the people under the yoke of occupation and in the diaspora of a representative and genuine voice that will represent and defend their interests in international conferences. It seems, in light of the dissidents' news conference, that the Syrian regime does not consider Tripoli's siege and the departure of the Palestinians the end of its brutal battle to contain the PLO.

Israel, which has continuous interest in chasing and liquidating the Palestinians wherever they are, found a golden opportunity and participated in the battles of Tripoli. Israel's Navy and Air Force are still imposing a naval and air blockade on the courageous Lebanese city. Through its continuous war against the PLO, Israel's interest is in harmony with its policies in the occupied territories. Israel aims at prolonging the current fait accompli — to allow it to officially confiscate the occupied West Bank and Gaza and to leave Lebanon's sovereignty in a state of continuous capitulation. Israel has waged its hostile and expansionist wars in Lebanon and against the PLO, wars that are temporary and external, in order to facilitate the imposition of the fait accompli policy in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

If we study the objectives and the elements involved in the battles raging in Lebanon from north to south and the parties participating in these battles directly or behind the scenes, we come up with only one conclusion — confrontation between two main regional forces to impose hegemony over the entire region.

The emergence of international polarization in the Middle East, through Lebanon's fierce battles, clearly asserts the soundness of the dominant opinion that the region will come under the pressure of the two superpowers in order to serve their interests. Hence, His Majesty King Husayn made his call on the West European countries in his address to the European Parliament last Thursday to adopt an initiative aimed at beginning a dialogue between the United States and the USSR to prevent polarization in the region, to shift the Middle East crisis back to its basic beginnings, and to renew international comitment to solve this crisis through the implementation of the UN Resolution 242, which calls for the withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab territories and for enabling the Palestinian people to determine their own future on their own soil.

Minister of Transport Returns From Iraq

JN201618 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Amman, 20 Dec (PETRA) — Transport Minister 'Ali as-Suhaymat and his delegation returned to Amman today after a 2-day visit to Iraq. During the visit, the delegation held talks with Iraqi Transport and Communications Minister 'Abd al-Jabbar 'Abd ar-Rahim and senior ministry officials on means to promote cooperation in various fields of transport. They agreed to continue work to accomplish more in the interest of the two fraternal countries.

As-Suhaymat also held a meeting with Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, to review bilateral accomplishments in the field of transport and future steps to promote land transport between the two countries. The delegation comprised 'Id al-Fayez, general manager of the Jordanian-Iraqi land transport company, and 'Ali al-Qatatishah from the port authority.

Salim Affirms Reagan Made 'Slip of Tongue'

NC201924 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Today the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies judged the United States' policy toward Lebanon. The Chamber held its third and last session today. It was originally intended to be a discussion of the Lebanese Government's policy, but turned instead into a discussion of U.S. policy toward Lebanon. Observers viewed this as changing the session from a public to a secret one, and instead of the government delivering a statement on its policy, the statement was a virtual review of U.S. stands, especially the recent ones toward the Lebanese crisis following the concern caused by recent U.S. statements and stands, which began with President Reagan's remark on the possibility of withdrawing the Marines and ending with Kissinger's statement on the current de facto partition of Lebanon.

According to parliamentary sources, the Chamber of Deputies apparently was not convinced of what Foreign Minister Elie Salim considered a slip of the tongue by Reagan and called on the government to deliver a statement frankly explaining if Lebanon is approaching a solution and what the status of the Lebanese crisis is vis-a-vis the recent ambivalent U.S. stands.

According to parliamentary sources, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim delivered a statement in which he affirmed that what President Reagan said on the possibility of withdrawing the U.S. contingent was merely a slip of the tongue since it has been proven that the U.S. stand is firm and that the United States is determined to help Lebanon oust the foreign armies. According to the same sources, Minister Salim said that Lebanon's importance from the U.S. point of view far transcends its size and territory, and any impairment to a free, independent, and unified Lebanon will jeopardize U.S. interests in the area. Minister Salim said: The United States has two options in Lebanon if no solutions are found. The first is a military confrontation in Lebanon, with the danger that the entire area will be threatened and bring it to the verge of a solution or conflagration. The second option is an agreement among the various parties to the Lebanese conflict through diplomatic means to avert a confrontation and engage in a dialogue.

Al-Wazzan Urges Unified Arab Stance, Understanding

NC201508 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Statement by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan in Beirut following a secret session of the Chamber of Deputies on 20 December — recorded]

[Excerpt] As you know, the session was secret. Therefore, I am not entitled to speak about it in any detail. However, generally speaking, I can say that the secret session enabled the government to brief the honorable deputies on some important details because, as you know, there are different types of diplomacy — public, quiet, and a diplomacy between the two. We are acting in all these spheres. Circumstances sometimes demand that one not disclose anything until assured of success. We ascertained that everyone was reassured by our frankness. The secret session enabled the deputies to express their views with full frankness. I must point out that we appreciate all the circumstances, feelings, and dangers in everything we do. The greatest danger is being realized today through the policies which govern this region and which have developed into a quasi-international conflict that is ready to explode. This is presently the most serious matter which we face. Therefore, we must face this as Lebanese and Arabs with a unified understanding and one stand, and our aim should be the liberation of our land from everyone. When I say from everyone, I mean Israel first and then those who came to help us.

Liaison Committee Briefs Western Representatives

NC201520 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Dispatch by correspondent Joe Sa'adah from the Presidential Palace — recorded]

[Text] Staff Major General Habib Faris today at noon chaired the periodic meeting of the Political Committee of the Higher Liaison Body at the Presidential Palace. The meeting was attended by the Italian ambassador and the U.S., French, and British Embassy charges d'affaires, the commanders of the Multinational Force, and the Lebanese officers team. At the beginning of the meeting, the Lebanese Army chief of intelligence presented a review of the talks held in Damascus which led to a comprehensive cease-fire and the further practical steps which aim at stabilizing the cease-fire and which will become apparent in the near future.

The representative of the Army Command in the Security Arrangements Committee then explained the manner in which these steps will be implemented. He also explained the measures which have been prepared to make both the cease-fire and the reopening of the main roads contribute to clearing the atmosphere and restoring stability in the mountains and Beirut's southern suburbs. The head of the Operations Room in the Presidential Palace then briefed the conferees on the security situation in the country, focusing on the evacuation operation currently taking place in Tripoli, the incidents in the south, the relaxation in the situation in wake of the evacuation of the displaced people from Dayr al-Qamar, and the cease-fire. Maj Gen Faris then briefed the conferees on the positive atmosphere which prevailed at the Damascus meeting, the preparations for the upcoming Jidda meeting, implementation of the security measures agreed upon in Damascus, and the preparations for the next dialogue conference.

Phalangists Reportedly Violate Cease-Fire

NC210853 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0830 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] The Phalangist militia are continuing their attacks on towns and villages in the Al-Kharrub region. Security reports received this morning say that since 0500 Al-Mughayriyah has been coming under machine gun and rocket fire from the hills of Jun and Majdaluna. At 0300 the Phalangist militia violated the cease-fire in the Barja-B'asir and Al-Jiyah-Harit B'asir areas by opening machine gun and rocket fire from their positions against

Barja and B'asir. Clashes ensued for 2 hours. The clashes then turned to sniper fire from the hills of Jun and Majdaluna on Al-Mughayriyah. Darayya is also coming under Phalangist sniper fire from 'Ayn al-Hawr.

Iddih Says Reagan Doesn't Object to Partition

JN201835 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Lebanese National Bloc leader Raymond Iddih, currently residing in Paris, made a statement to our radio commenting on former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's statements on the partition of Lebanon and President Reagan's statements on the possible withdrawal of the Marines from Beirut. Raymond Iddih said: Now that the threats for dividing Lebanon into three parts have become apparent in some Washington political circles, I must remind the Lebanese officials of the Second Article of the Constitution which says that no part of Lebanese soil shall be relinquished or conceded. I would like to say that to relinquish means to sell and to concede means to yield what we possess, and also capitulate.

It appears that President Reagan does not object to this tripartite division which would satisfy Syria, Israel, and some Maronite leaders who would live in peace in one part with total disregard for the fate of those Lebanese and Christians who would be under Syrian or Israeli rule. In fact, President Reagan's sole concern — which is dictated to him by the upcoming U.S. elections — is to withdraw his Navy and soldiers to avoid more victims and increased involvement. I hope the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies will not be deceived this time as it was earlier when it voted on the 17 May agreement which the Lebanese president has not yet ratified.

Shams ad-Din Leaves for Damascus for Talks

NC201209 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Supreme Shi'ite Islamic Council, and Deputy Husayn al-Husayni left Beirut this morning for Damascus. They plan to meet with senior Syrian officials to discuss the various aspects of the current Lebanese conditions.

VOAL Reports Four 'Heroic Operations' in South

NC201240 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Members of the Lebanese National Resistance today carried out four heroic operations against the occupation forces in the south. The resistance fighters, using rockets and machine guns, attacked an enemy patrol at 0630 at the Dayr Qanun-Ra's al-'Ayn intersection in the [word indsitinct] area, killing and wounding all of its members, estimated at more than 10 soldiers. The occupation forces subsequently cordoned off the area, detained five citizens, and cut the roads. Resistance fighters launched another attack at 0805 against an occupation force's position in the Al-Buss area in Tyre with rockets and hand grenades. The losses from this operation, which turned into wide-scale clashes between the resistance men and enemy soldiers due to the occupation force's imposed security cordon around the area, are not known.

The resistance men attacked an enemy patrol with hand grenades and machine guns at 1000 in An-Nijmah Square, Riyad as-Sulh Street in the center of Sidon. The clash, which lasted for 15 minutes, resulted in three casualties to the enemy's soldiers. Ambulances were seen moving them from the battle area. Consequently, the occupation forces cordoned off the area and the Zionist soldiers indiscriminately opened fire on innocent citizens, resulting in five civilians wounded. Another incident occurred at 1115 when an enemy patrol was rushing to Riyad as-Sulh Street to help cordon it. An explosive device was detonated by remote control when the patrol was passing on Ma'ruf Sa'd Street near the Sinniq intersection. The explosion destroyed a vehicle, killing and wounding some members of the patrol.

Junblattists Fail To Honor Cease-Fire, Shell Army

NC201522 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] At approximately 1600, Lebanese Army positions in Suq al-Gharb came under violent artillery shelling from the Junblatt emplacements in 'Alayh and 'Aytat. Army positions in Qabr Shmun and 'Ayn Bsur were also subjected to similar shelling. It should be recalled that the cease-fire agreement, which was scheduled to go into effect at 1515, has thus far not been honored by Junblatt's men.

Junblatt Forces Shell Al-Mukhallis Monastery

NC211140 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] The Al-Mukhallis Monastery and its environs near Juniyah are coming under fierce Junblatt artillery shelling. The monastery director, the monks, and the evacuees there have addressed an appeal to those concerned to bring about a halt to the fierce shelling which is aimed at innocent people. The monastery director has denounced the shelling, describing it as savage and not taking into consideration the sanctity of a holy place, which is spreading a religious and social message, in which only monks and evacuees are living. He added: Those who are trying to harm the monastery's prestige, impregnability, and message will not be able to harm its steadfastness.

Amal Movement Releases 3 Phalangists

NC202049 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has announced that three Phalangist Party members who had been in the custody of the Amal Movement were released today and handed over to Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan, the Ja'farite Mufti. In a statement he made this evening, Birri said: Further to my statement this morning and to show our complete readiness to carry out our commitment as soon as the operation for the release

of detainees begins, and to encourage the implementation of what we had previously said, and for humanitarian reasons, we have handed over to Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan, the Ja'farite mufti, three members of the Phalangist Party who have been in our custody as a goodwill gesture and as the start of the operation. Those released are Joseph al-Haj, Ilyas Milki, and Naji al-Asmar. Meanwhile, a Phalangist Party source revealed that last Thursday, three detainees were released. They were 'Ali 'Awad al-Haj Hasan, 'Ali Muhammad Dib Zu'aytir, and Ibrahim 'Ali Isma'il. They were handed over to former Minister Majid Hamadah.

Israelis Divert Ship With Palestinians to Haifa

NC201112 Beirut AS-SAFIR in Arabic 17 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Israeli warships have detained a Lebanese ship and taken it and its passengers to Haifa Port. Abu Nidal, a Palestinian resistance official in the north, another official known as Nasir, and the wife of Lieutenant Colonel Mundhi Abu Ghazalah and her three children were on the ship, in addition to 20 other persons whose names are not known. It has been learned that the ship, named *Rakan*, is owned by Ahmad Talis; it left Tripoli Port 4 days ago, and Israeli warships intercepted it and led it to Haifa.

Israel Reportedly To Withdraw Troops From Sidon

GF210942 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0925 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Beirut, 21 Dec (WAKH) — 'Adil 'Usayran, former speaker of the National Assembly, has reported that Israel will withdraw from Sidon this week. Radio Beirut quoted 'Usayran as saying that he held consultations with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil with regard to introducing the Lebanese Army into the areas which the Israeli forces will withdraw from.

Israeli Planes Attack Iranian Positions

NC210942 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0935 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Our correspondent says that eight Israeli planes carried out an operation against the Husayn al-Musawi group and Iranian gunmen in the Shaykh 'Abdallah Camp and its environs in Ba'labakk. Two planes reconnoitered, four planes provided protection, and two planes bombarded. Our correspondent adds that the Israeli air raids scored direct hits and that columns of smoke were seen rising in the bombarded areas. It has also been observed that SAM missiles were fired in the direction of the planes from the Syrian ground positions and precisely from the Ar-Rawdah and Az-Zabadani areas where there are armed Iranian groups. The Israeli planes surrounded themselves with the protection of thermal balloons. The air raids continued until 1100. At 1110 a formation of three planes was seen penetrating the airspace of the south in the direction of Al-Biqa'.

Gunmen Open Fire on French Post in Beirut

NC210637 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] At 0515 today, gunmen in two cars fired three RPG shells and opened bursts of machine gun fire at a post for the French force in Al-Awza'i Street near Mar Mikha'il-al-Bastah at-Tahta junction. The security sources did not report any casualties among those manning the post.

Israeli Aircraft Repelled Over Ba'labakk 21 Dec

JN211229 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1220 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

The Israeli enemy continues to escalate its hostile actions in Lebanon.

At 1030 today, 21 December 1983, three formations of its aircraft overflew the areas where our forces are present in Al-Biqa'. One of these formations strafed the Shaykh 'Abdallah barracks in Ba'labakk and nearby residential areas, wounding seven civilians, two of them seriously. Our air defenses intercepted the enemy aircraft and forced them to return in the direction of the occupied territory.

Khaddam Briefs Al-Asad on Lebanese Talks

JN201912 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, this afternoon. The president was briefed on the meetings and talks which Khaddam held with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim.

'Popular March' Condemns U.S.-Israeli Alliance

JN201107 [Editorial Report] Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic at 0757 GMT on 20 December begins a live relay from Latakia of a popular march held to condemn the U.S.-Israeli alliance. The march is followed at 0846 GMT by a rally at the Armed Forces officers' club in Latakia.

Hamid Hasan, president of the National Federation of Syrian Students, speaks on behalf of Syrian popular organizations. He praises Syria's steadfastness, describing it as "an impregnable dam in the face of U.S.-Israeli schemes," and criticizes the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance, which he terms "the climax of an aggressive alliance against the existence and destiny of the Arabs." Hasan then asserts that Syria's stands are the primary target of this alliance. His speech ends at 0900 GMT.

At 0904 GMT, following the chanting of slogans, Ba'th Party Assistant Secretary General 'Abdallah al-Ahmar speaks on behalf of the party.

Al-Ahmar Speech

JN201241 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0904 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Speech by 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Syrian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, at a rally held in the Armed Forces Officers Club in Latakia — live]

[Excerpts] Struggler comrades, brother citizens, sons of our great people on this lofty mountain and on our coast. You have confronted and annihilated attempts at conquest throughout the centuries and have lived as free men so that this homeland might remain free and dignified. Our leader, the struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad, grew up among the ranks of the people. [applause] Our leader, the struggler Hafiz al-Asad, arose from its ranks and upon this good earth to carry and embody its the pains, hopes, and aspirations of its people. Our great leader, who embodies the aspirations of this entire nation, asked me today to bring you his warm greetings from Damascus [applause] and to stress to you that, as always, he will be with you and at your side in the fighting and the struggle for the sake of building our new society, liberating our land, and regaining our usurped rights. [applause]

These people, who have always lived in honor without bowing to any invader or aggressor, and who have expelled every occupier and enemy from their land, are now destined to confront — as they have in the past — the agents, imperialists, Zionists, and all enemies. Why have these enemies targeted our people in particular? They want to harm our country's party and revolution. They want to restore the past and the picture of colonialism in this land, the land that expelled the colonialists. They want to regain control of this land. They want to evict our people from this land in order to replace them with others. They want domination and hegemony at any price and by all means. The old colonialism has gone bankrupt and ended; the new imperialism — imperialism of the second half of this century — under the United States — continues to employ all sorts of methods and plans to subjugate us, humiliate us, and dominate our region. What has this imperialism done in its 40 years of existence? It has supported Israel as a usurping entity in this Arab land. It has displaced some of our Palestinian Arab people and attempted to bring and support agents to act as tools in imposing its wishes. It has concocted plots. As soon as one of its schemes failed, it worked for the implementation of another. What was the result? All that the United States did and is doing today is doomed to failure, because these people — who liberated themselves and are enjoying the blessings of freedom and dignity — cannot accept humiliation once more.

A people led by Hafiz al-Asad [applause] — the symbol of its will, freedom, and dignity — cannot accept the presence of the Greater Israel being planned by Zionism and U.S. imperialism. Our people will not tolerate the separation of any part of this homeland. They want to detach Arab Lebanon from its Arab fold in order to make it a bridgehead for their domination and hegemony over the region. Our people cannot allow the imperialists to sever this Arab part from its Arab fold. When Arab Syria — with all its sons and under the leadership of its fighting president — sent its forces to Lebanon, it did so in order to protect those people and their independence, and to defend them from Zionism and U.S. imperialism. Syria, with its Armed Forces, people, and all its sons, is today supporting and helping these people achieve their independence and be Arab in both affiliation and nature. In this way will every citizen be free and equal, away from any form of domination by U.S. imperialism or Zionism.

Our enemies are today working hard to promote Israeli-U.S. domination. What do they seek to achieve with this domination? They want to subjugate us. They want us to be their followers. They want our land and wealth. Why? For the sake of U.S. and Israeli domination. They want to liquidate our Palestinian ques-

tion — the basic issue of the Arab struggle. They want to destroy all hope of liberation and all the accomplishments and gains made by the Arab liberation movement in the second half of this century. They are dealing with us in the same way they dealt with other people in the world. They only consider themselves and Israel. He who is not with them is against them, he is their enemy, a terrorist, and affiliated with the Soviet Union. Therefore, they must fight him, kill him, and subjugate him by any means. This is what the U.S. imperialists, Zionists, NATO allies, and tools in this part of the world or everywhere else are seeking, planning, and attempting to implement. They are at the forefront of a new global policy, the purpose of which is the subjugation of peoples. They are leading this world toward a fierce and destructive war so that they might live and others may die. However, they do not have the capacity to do this. Life must be in the hands of the people. Those who want domination and hegemony will certainly die and wither in the same way as the earlier colonialists and imperialists — the enemies of the people — died and withered.

Brothers, strugglers: The United States, Israel, and their agents tested all their methods. They tried internal plotting, and economic and political siege. It supplied Israel with all the destructive weapons it possesses, and prompted that country to wage continual wars against us. However, our people were and still are lying in wait for Israel, the tool of U.S. imperialism which seeks domination.

The United States has sent its fleets and aircraft carriers to the Mediterranean and off both the Lebanese and Syrian coasts. It has done this in order to threaten and directly interfere alongside the Phalangists with the aim of deciding the battle in their favor. The goal behind all these actions has not been achieved. Therefore, it moved on to a new stage, one in which all means are used to threaten Syrian and prepare for an act of aggression against her. This is due to the fact that it considers Syria to be the thorn and basic obstacle to the implementation of its regional schemes. Thus, it used all its powers, moved all its agents, and pressured its NATO partners to join it in the Multinational Force in Lebanon and to participate in aggression. The one who hesitates to do so will be threatened.

The United States understood that a delay in achieving what it wants will end its presence throughout the region, and not only in Lebanon and Syria. Consequently, it is today fanning the conflict and escalating the situation in Lebanon. It recently raided our Armed Forces in Lebanon. What has it gained from these raids? Its aircraft fell to pieces at the hands of our valiant fighters and eagles, at the hands of our heroic soldiers in our Armed Forces and air defense units. [applause] It continues its attacks on an almost daily basis, waving its big stick over the heads of our people and our forces in Lebanon. It belives that the big stick will frighten our people and make them yield to its will. It must understand — if it has not yet done so — what our fellow struggler Comrade President Hafiz al-Asad [applause] has said and what you and every one of our citizens are saying today. They say: No, we will not kneel, yield, or surrender. We will resist the U.S. enemy. We will resist the Zionist enemy. We will resist the NATO enemy. We will resist anyone who wants to commit an act of aggression against this land and these people, who are defending their independence and seeking to live with honor. [applause]

Brothers, the United States is preparing for a complete and widespread act of aggression against our people and nation, and is in the process of completing its preparations. Most prominent and important in this preparation is the reinforcement of its strategic alliance with Israel. It believes that Israel, which has always been its tool, will this time be the tool to achieve its hegemony and control over our people and over the entire Arab region. By doing so, the United States has not only targeted Syria — as Syria is the heart of the Arab masses, the throbbing heart of the Arab nation, the Arab citadel that has been impregnable to enemies throughout the past centuries and ages. Syria is the citadel which will remain impregnable to all our new enemies in the same way that it was impregnable to our old enemies. Syria is the target today, as it represents our Arab nation and its aspirations, and as it defends this nation's fateful issues, future, and human civilization. Syria has been targeted for these reasons. Had Syria adopted a different stand, it would not be the target of imperialism.

Let us look at the agents in Jordan and Iraq. Why don't the imperialists harm them? Why do the imperialists support them and give them roles in which they stab us and our nation in the back? What is the reason for all this? It can be seen in the fact that they are obedient tools in the hands of their imperialist and Zionist masters. Syria is the lofty struggler which will remain lofty for the sake of the Arab nation's freedom, unity, dignity, and progress. [applause]

Syria is the target today because it is defending the Arab nation. Each Arab citizen, the Arab masses everywhere, and all Arab officials should today realize that the act of aggression now being prepared by the United States and Israel is not aimed solely at Syria. It is a comprehensive act of aggression against the Arab nation as well. This act of aggression will begin with Syria, because Syria is the only confrontationist front against Israel, the United States, and their hostile, expansionist schemes. If imperialism and those supporting it manage to penetrate this line, there will be no other line of defense and confrontation in the entire Arab homeland. This means that the United States and Israel would be able to impose their hegemony and complete domination over the Arab region as a whole. However, this will not take place, as Syria is determined — as one people, one under the guidance of the leading party and leading president — to continue the confrontation, the steadfastness, and the victory. [applause]

Brothers, in your name we tell these enemies, those who are the enemies of our people, nation, and all of humanity, that we love freedom. We want to live and we want peace for our people and for others. Our people and nation have never committed an act of aggression against others. Our people and nation have always faced aggression and bellicose threats. Therefore, it is our right to defend ourselves, both because this is a legitimate right, and also because we are used to living in dignity and honor. Thus, we are more determined than ever to defend ourselves, our independence, and our national causes.

We in this land make a distinction between those who are hostile to us and those who are friendly to us. Those who help us and stand by our people in their struggle are our friends. To such people we reciprocate friendship, love, and sincerity. U.S. impe-

rialism is the enemy of our people; we must confront it and defend our country. We must prevent it from dominating our people. The USSR is our friend. It stands by our people and provides us with the means of victory. We must be friends with it and we must be sincere in this friendship. Hence, we tell the imperialists that we are not a satellite of the USSR, but are instead its friend, because friendship means helping one's friend in his hour of need. We have our own free will and independence, but are sincere to our friends who help us and work for our victory. We must face our enemies so as to ward off their threats to our country and remain proud, honorable men.

Brothers, we did not travel thousands of miles to the United States in order to threaten the American people or any other people. The United States, however, is constantly sending its gifts to our people and other peoples. These gifts are the tools of destruction, death, and war. It dispatched its Navy, Army, and aircraft carriers to threaten and commit acts of aggression against us. Hence, we tell the United States — as our people in Damascus, Hamah, Dayr az-Zawr, Aleppo, Homs, Dar'a', As-Suwayda', Al-Jazirah, Ar-Raqqah, and other cities have done: We will confront you, o aggressors, and we will shatter you should you attempt to attack us. We make peace with those who make peace with us, and we defend ourselves. We will have no mercy on those who attack us. We will not compromise. Either we triumph or [sentence incomplete] and, as our leader said: either victory or martyrdom.

Our people's march from one victory to the next will continue. We will overcome the difficulties we face us as a result of the aggression. We will overcome the pressures which pave the way for aggression. We will move forward on our march to liberate our occupied Arab territory. We will always remain faithful to the cause of our Palestinian people, the mainstay and the very life of everyone in this country. The more devoted we are to this cause the more our enemies and agents plot against us in an attempt to separate us from that cause. We say to them: The Palestinian cause is primarily Syria's cause and the cause of all Arabs. Those who deviate from the path of this cause will fall. The march of the Arab revolutionaries who are committed to this cause and to its charter, and who are committed to the armed struggle and the return to Palestine, will continue and triumph. Those who choose another path must fall and collapse in the enemy's lap and be used as a tool to liquidate this cause. We tell our enemies that they will not be able to liquidate the Palestinian cause. They will not be able to liquidate our party or our revolution in Syria. They will not be able to subjugate our country, or control our nation because we will lie in wait for them and stand fast against their aggression. We will go from one victory to the next so as to complete the construction of our unified Arab socialist society, liberate every inch of occupied Arab soil, and help restore the Palestinian people's right to their homeland, to return to their soil, and to build their independent state and become part of this great Arab homeland and nation, which must always be proud and serve as a messenger of culture for all mankind and for progress, liberation, and peace.

Commentary on 'Dangers' of U.S.-Israeli Alliance

JN201630 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] The classified information which has leaked from the documents pertaining to the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance occupies a prominent place in the international media. The dangers revealed by this information have made even senior Western politicians raise their voices in condemnation and in warning of the perilous possibilities and indifference to peace in the region and the world. The U.S. President — who has made his country's force a cover for Israeli objectives — is trying to link peace in the Middle East and regional peace in the Mediterranean basin to the Zionist command's aggressive and expansionist trends. He must do no less than destroy all Arab hopes to satisfy the Zionist base in the United States. The information leaking from the White House indicates that the U.S. and Israeli administrations have agreed to bury Lebanon's independence, coordinate their steps to launch an overall war against Syria, and consolidate Israel's occupation of the West Bank, the Golan Heights, Gaza, and southern Lebanon. This information also confirms that the United States is planning to create favorable conditions for Israel to reach the Gulf after its expansion to the Nile and its pollution of the atmosphere in the Caribbean and Latin America. This also comes after Zionist racism has become the most prominent ally of racist and dictatorial regimes in Africa and Asia.

Thus, the imperialist octopus that is the ally of Zionism is seriously preparing to threaten world peace by using Israel as its base and by taking advantage of the unstable situation in the Middle East as its card to place two options before the world: Mankind can either accept nuclear destruction or submit to the will of Reagan and Israel. Hence, Syria's role has gained importance. By confronting the schemes of the United States and Zionist racism, Syria plays its humanitarian role, not only on behalf of the Arab nation, but on behalf of peace-loving peoples and forces in the region and throughout the world as well. Despite all the secret appendices contained in the documents of the U.S.-Israeli alliance and the dangers and threats they represent, Syria is determined in word and deed to be the forward international trench in the face of imperialist challenges to peace, just as it is the forward Arab trench which seeks to defend the existence and rights of the Arabs, the existence and rights that the Reagan administration is denying as a result of its eagerness to become an ally of the Zionist aggressors.

We should remind the Arabs that such Western politicians as Brzezinski, Jesse Jackson, and Lord Caradon were the first to draw attention to and warn of the dangers of an U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance. How can any Arab defend that alliance and not see it as a threat to the borders and existence of the Arabs? Henry Kissinger, one of the creators of U.S. Middle Eastern policy, did not conceal the existence of a U.S.-Israeli plan to partition Lebanon, just as Brzezinski did not conceal the fact that

Reagan had agreed with Shamir to consolidate Israel's occupation of Arab land. In light of these facts and these admissions by U.S. politicians, no Arab is allowed to make friends with the United States or forgive its crimes against the Arab nation and its pan-Arab aspirations.

We repeat that we do not beg assistance, but we also refuse to be stabbed in the back. As the Camp David accords, Shultz' agreement, and Reagan's initiative represent one of these stabs, Syria has the right to warn and reject U.S. bargains and to take a position in harmony with its unchanging principles and adherence to the firm pan-Arab principle. These bargains are the latest U.S. maneuvers to create an ailing and weak Arab situation. They are also a U.S. cover for the nature of the strategic alliance between Washington and Tel Aviv. As the United States is committed to supporting and implementing Israel's interests, Syria will not simply sit back with folded arms while U.S. plans are aimed against it and the Arabs. Syria's position is on this subject is clear. Just as it encircled and froze Camp David, buried Shultz' plan, and stopped the autonomy conspiracy and Reagan's initiative, so Syria has its own methods to foil the suspect deals related to Reagan's agreements with Shamir.

AL-BA'TH: U.S. Plans To Occupy Oil Wells

JN210641 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Press review]

[Text] Today's press analyses and commentaries deal with the serious implications posed by U.S.-Zionist intentions against the future and existence of our Arab nation.

In a commentary entitled "What Is Behind the Secret Documents?" *AL-BA'TH* writes: Perhaps the latest report to be leaked concerning the appendicies contained in the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance agreement was one carried by a news agency. This report relates to a U.S. document which Shamir was given defining a number of aspects of a plan prepared for the entire region. The document discusses the formation of an Israeli military division to occupy the oil wells.

We may point out that this information has been leaked at a time when intensive overt and covert contacts are taking place between Washington and its agents on the one hand, and among the agents themselves on the other.

AL-BA'TH adds: Following the failure of each link in its ongoing hostile plan, the United States is trying once more to begin preparation of a new link. The master of the black house is seeking to combine the Camp David accords with his plan and the agreement of submission by means of a military fist extending from the Nile to the oil wells, and from the Mediterranean to the land of Mesopotamia.

Ash-Shar' Receives Lebanese Journalists

JN201546 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1315 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 20 Dec (SANA) — Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs and acting minister of information, received a delegation from the Lebanese journalists union headed by Muhammad al-Ba'labaki. Henry al-Asmar, Basim as-Sa'b, Yusuf Khattar, and 'Awni al-Ka'ki also attended the meeting.

The talks held during the session revolved around developments in Lebanon, Syria's stand toward developments there, and the efforts being made to achieve a Lebanese national accord.

Air Force Attacks 'Terrorist Base' Near Ba'labakk

TA210858 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0855 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Air Force planes this morning attacked a terrorist base, which had been operating under Iranian influence, in the area of Ba'labakk in northeast Al-Biqa'. This base was used for training and as a base for attacks against the IDF and the Multinational Force in Beirut. Our planes returned safely and our pilots reported accurate hits against the target. This was an IDF spokesman's announcement.

Arens on Attack

TA211202 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Statement by Defense Minister Moshe Arens in the Knesset on 21 December — recorded]

[Text] The basic fact is that we had the power to attack the terrorists in Tripoli, and we still have this power. We also had the power to prevent their evacuation if we wanted to do so. We decided to attack them as much as possible. We decided to oppose, and announce our opposition to, UN institutions or Western countries that are on correct or friendly terms with us aiding the terrorist groups, and taking them to a safe place under the protection of their flag, and we decided not to enter into a confrontation with the navies of countries with whom we are on friendly terms.

We will not allow the terrorists to settle in Ash-Shuf, which we evacuated. We will continue to demand that the Druze evacuate the terrorists from this area and prevent them from settling there. And we will continue making the Syrians understand that as long as they do not control the terrorist gangs in the areas of Lebanon that they control, we will attack terrorist targets there, as we did this morning.

Shamir, Arens Policy Dispute on Evacuation

TA210530 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] In Jerusalem it was revealed this morning that the prime minister and the defense minister disputed how reaction to the evacuation of the terrorists from Tripoli was handled. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the prime minister promised the Americans, without consulting with Minister Arens first, that Israel would not interfere with the evacuation. The defense minister, on the other hand, thought that a firm action should be taken in order to upset the evacuation and cause the continuation of the fighting between the PLO rival factions. Minister Arens was furious when he accidently discovered the answer passed to Washington. A source close to the prime minister told our correspondent that at times the defense minister reaches a decision without consulting the prime minister and at times it is the other way around. Reliable defense sources stressed to our correspodnent that Minister Arens did not even consider acting contrary to the decision of the political echelon.

Shamir on Dispute

TA210956 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0949 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that Israel will hit the terrorists anywhere, including Tripoli. Yitzhaq Shamir answered urgent motions to the agenda introduced today for the first time in the Knesset. He added that there is no contradiction between the stands of the defense minister and his own stands on the subject of evacuating the terrorists from Tripoli. Mr Shamir reiterated that Israel insists that as a condition for the IDF withdrawal from Lebanon, the Syrians as well must leave Lebanon. Shamir's statements were conveyed by our correspondent in the Knesset Gil'ad Mishori.

Ben-Elisar on Future of 'Arafat's Leadership

TA201857 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Report by David Essing]

[Text] Chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar says the 'Arafat of tomorrow will not be the same 'Arafat we have known until now. Ben-Elisar says that for the first time 'Arafat's forces will not be able to operate against Israel from a neighboring Arab country.

As Ben-Elisar puts it, you cannot operate the way you do in Lebanon when you are in Tunisia, Algeria, and North Yemen.

And, Ben-Elisar adds, losing military efficiency means losing political status as well. But the official also warns that this does not mean an end to terrorist attacks. But what of the rival Palestinian forces led by Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] who are still in Lebanon? Some Israeli experts expect the Syrian-backed forces to now turn against Israeli units in the south. Ben-Elisar does not rule out this possibility.

[Begin recording] [Ben-Elisar] This is not impossible. but let us see what is going to happen on the main issue, on the Palestinian issue, on the peace process. Abu Musa and his people are going to be considered exactly as they are — Syrian surrogates, people who are actually activated and manipulated by Syria. This is something different. And this is something we can fight more easily against in the political sense, not only in the miltiary sense. Let us not forget that 'Arafat was not so much a military opponent to Israel as he was a political opponent, and Abu Musa is not 'Arafat.

[Essing] Are you implying that Israel should hold Syria responsible if there are attacks from the Abu Musa forces?

[Ben-Elisar] This has beenn always the policy of the State of Israel, since 1948. Always the states where terrorists have been trained and from where they departed to operate against Israel were held responsible.

[Essing] Ben-Elisar rejects the idea that Israel's recent shelling has resulted in 'Arafat leaving Tripoli with a victory of sorts. Not so, says Ben-Elisar; Israel's policy did not give 'Arafat any

victory. 'Arafat was beaten. Ben-Elisar says that 'Arafat may be making the victory sign, but nobody will believe it today. [end recording]

Press Comment on Evacuation

TA210800 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 21 Dec 83

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Text] *HA'ARETZ* writes that just as Israeli shelling in Tripoli seemed about to prevent the sailing of the Greek ships from Cyprus, the United States and France exerted overt pressure and the result — as could have been foreseen — was that our Navy vessels left the arena and the evacuation was completed with no further delays. Was the satisfaction gained from showing our disagreement with the UN resolution and the behavior of Washington, Paris, and Athens, and from proving that no amount of pressure can extract from us guarantees for the safety of a band of terrorists, worth the damage caused by emphasizing Israel's limitations in its ability to insist on its attitudes and in showing the whole world that the political-strategic cooperation between us and the United States does not enter into the picture where 'Arafat is concerned?

HATZOFE writes that after 'Arafat's second saving under the aegis of the superpowers and the United Nations, the beaten PLO will rise again. The head of the terrorists will again try to regain his strength and dance between Moscow and Washington and Amman and Riyadh while in the background his supporters commit new terrorist acts. Anyone who has not yet lost the image of God, which differentiates between man and beast, cannot but condemn sharply the hypocritical behavior of all those who gave Yasir 'Arafat their protection. It is regrettable that the Government of Israel as well — despite the IDF Navy shelling of the PLO bases in Tripoli — did not take real steps in order to prevent 'Arafat's evacuation which turned out to be a victory trip for this archmurderer.

DAVAR says that if the Israeli Government wanted to prove that the terrorists could leave Tripoli despite its wishes, then it succeeded. If it wanted to show that even a regional superpower like Israel can make an effort without achieving anything, then it succeeded. If it wanted to impede the terrorists' evacuation from Tripoli, however, then we can see that the ammunition was wasted. This futile demonstration by the IDF Navy, the paper writes, blends nicely with the rest of the known character of this miserable war in Lebanon. However, this does not mean of course that the evacuation of 'Arafat and his men from Tripoli constitutes a victory for him. Surely 'Arafat does not have a great political future, even if he succeeds in retaining his title. Those who think that 'Arafat will now follow the political path are only deluding themselves. A faction of a split organization cannot afford such a luxury. Without a political alternative and without a military infrastructure, it should be feared that the Tripoli evacuees will turn to terrorism in order to prove their existence. As is well known, there is no need for a real infrastructure in order to carry out spectacular terrorist acts.

AL HAMISHMAR writes that without our threats, 'Arafat would have left Tripoli as one who was defeated by his rivals. However, yesterday he was again able to raise his fingers in the victory gesture as one who left despite Israeli opposition. As for 'Arafat himself, the behavior of the Israeli Government did not change the fact of his defeat, as the one who was forced to leave Tripoli because of his rivals' ultimatum. The threat to his leadership still hangs over his head, and his organization is still divided by dispute. It is doubtful if the man himself learned the lesson of the failure of his terrorist road. The fact that he assumed responsibility for the bus explosion in Jerusalem should also not be forgotten. If a little while ago a trend toward moderation could be discerned in his inclination toward the political path, now there is no chance for it in the foreseeable future.

More Press Comment

TA210936 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Review of midday press editorials]

[Text] *MA'ARIV* says that Israel achieved its aim in Tripoli. It wanted to show that no element in the world can take for granted Israel's agreement to the evacuation arrangement reached between the PLO factions with the mediation of Saudi Arabia, the blessing of the United States, and the active aid of the European community. The IDF naval actions were intended to show that Israel has a free hand in Tripoli and this aim was achieved. If, in addition, this increased 'Arafat's fears, and he even had to leave his heavy arms behind, this is a real gain.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT says that the government's policy regarding the evacuation was a policy of zigzags, from intervention to non-intervention in the operation. The paper says that in the end Israel was right not to take upon itself the mission of liquidating 'Arafat because by doing so it would have supplied the PLO with a saint and the rest of the world with propaganda material against us.

Eshed on Evacuations

TA191549 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 19 Dec 83 p 8

[Commentary by Hagay Eshed: "Who Is Evacuating Whom?"]

[Text] While the wise men among Israeli policymakers and news correspondents continue their meaningless chatter about the crazy and unnecessary Lebanese war, the map of Lebanon is changing before our eyes and with it the map of the whole Middle East. Part of these changes are a direct result of the yet unfinished Lebanon war, with or without approval of the war's initiators. Most of these changes can already be seen as a change for the better vis-a-vis stability and peace, "Peace for the Galilee," as well as the security of all of Israel.

Let us begin with the changes in Ash-Shuf, which is the key area for Israel's security and peace in the Galilee. This area overlooks the road to southern Lebanon and Beirut. If the Druze consolidate their control over Ash-Shuf, and through it their hold over the central government in Beirut, and if they decide to prevent

the passage of Palestinian and Shi'ite terrorists from the south of Ash-Shuf to Beirut, it will be their important contribution to ensuring order and security in Ash-Shuf itself as well as in neighboring areas, including southern Lebanon and northern Israel. The evacuation of the Phalange forces from Dayr al-Qamar and of part of the Maronite refugees from Ash-Shuf villages ensures the Druze military victory and leaves in their hands control over the only area in all of Lebanon that can be considered an autonomous Druze area. This was something the Druze had long complained of to their Israeli interlocuters: The Maronites have another territorial-demographic area in Lebanon, which is their autonomous area — Juniyah and the northern mountains enclave. We have only one place, Ash-Shuf, and we will fight for it with our back to the wall, until the end. And this is what they did.

Now the Druze are faced with the moment of truth. Will they fulfill their past promise that once they control Ash-Shuf they will clear it of all the various terrorists? This is necessary in order to isolate the Shi'ites in southern Lebanon and for the Lebanese Army to overcome Shi'ite opposition to the Beirut Government, by military and political means together. Now the Beirut Government will have no other choice but to increase the Shi'ites' share in the governmental pie and to clear out the terrorism pockets they maintain in bases south of Beirut. The orderly and agreed-upon evacuation from Dayr al-Qamar was facilitated by Israel and could not have been carried out without the Israeli presence nearby along the Al-Awwali River. This presence will also be necessary when it is time to test Druze intentions in the near future.

It will also give the Druze an excuse for acting with restraint toward the Syrians and for having no choice but to cooperate with Israel in the future as well. Although there is no guarantee that this will happen, there is one certainty: Without this presence there will be no chance of securing Ash-Ahuf as a buffer zone vital to the security of southern Lebanon and northern Israel.

The evacuation of Yasir 'Arafat's terrorists from Tripoli is another demographic-military-territorial change on Lebanon's map. This, as well, is a change for the better for stabilizing the Lebanese Government and for ensuring Israel's security. Just as the Maronites had to give up their control of Ash-Shuf, so the Palestinians have to give up their military control over areas where there are concentrations of Palestinian civilians. The Palestinians in Lebanon are left without military teeth and without a political leadership. Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] and his men are nothing but Syrian mercenaries. The Palestinians stopped being one of the power centers in Lebanon and are not party to any negotiations and any arrangements over their future. The veto power they had in the past against any political or military arrangement of the Lebanese Government with Israel was cancelled. Those are Lebanese facts which no amount of twisting of facts by the Israeli opposition on the Lebanon war can cancel.

These two evacuations taking place now in Lebanon — the Maronite evacuation and the Palestinian evacuation — exemplify the character of the changes taking place incessantly on the Middle Eastern map, andthose which have already taken place, and those about to take place. Those changes are taking place only partially because of the use of military force, but without the use of force they would not have taken place. Those are changes of a mixed and combined character — territorial, demographic, ethnic, sectarian, religious, and military. The coined phrase "territorial compromise" is only a half or a third of the truth. What is actually discussed is a "compromise" or "an agreed or forced arrangement," which is a mixture of all three elements together. Any "territorial compromise" between Israel and Jordan will have to be also a military, demographic, and functional compromise. It will encompass evacuation of residents and settlements on both sides, not only on the Israeli-Jewish side.

The evacuation of territories and people have taken place in other areas in the Middle East. It happened in Cyprus; it happened in Yamit. It might happen following the Iran-Iraq war, especially if it extends to the Persian Gulf emirates, which the Arabs call the Arab Gulf, and which have a Shi'ite population only now beginning to take the path of terrorism and opposition to Sunni majority rule. It seems that the Israeli-Arab conflict is not outstanding in its character and components. It is well integrated into the processes of change taking place in the whole of the Middle East map, from one side to the other. These are changes brought about by military and political force and by the force of natural demographic processes of immigration and the birth rate. The name of the game is "who is evacuating whom?" And Israel is taking part in it and will do so in the future, on both sides of the field.

Former AL-FAJR Editor Comments

TA201239 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Following the numerous defeats 'Arafat suffered in the Tripoli area and the ensuing rage in Judaea and Samaria, people there are obviously pleased about the PLO evacuation from Tripoli today. Our correspondent Arye Gus talked to the former editor of *AL-FAJR*, Ziyad Abu Ziyad:

[Begin recording][Abu Ziyad] The evacuation of Tripoli will not be the end of the Palestinian struggle. Immediately after his departure from Tripoli, 'Arafat should be expected to summon all the PLO institutions to demonstrate the very fact that the PLO is alive and that its institutions are alive and kicking, and to prepare for the next stage.

[Gus] What do you think will be the next stage? Will it be a political stage or a return to the path of terrorism?

[Abu Ziyad] This cannot be predicted. This is a combined struggle. We cannot rely on only a political or military struggle; they go hand in hand.

[Gus] Now that 'Arafat is getting out of Tripoli and the rift with Syria has become final, is it possible that 'Arafat may resume his ties with Jordan and, perhaps, with Egypt?

[Abu Ziyad] As far as resuming ties, this is not correct. There have always been ties with Jordan; they were never severed. 'Arafat will continue to coordinate positions with any Arab

element which contributes to the interests of the Palestinian cause.

[Gus] Does the evacuation from Tripoli mean a rift or split in the PLO?

[Abu Ziyad] I do not think that the departure from Tripoli represents a rift within the PLO. As I said, 'Arafat will summon the PLO institutions. The latter will function and the PLO will continue to operate.

[Gus] Still, a large part of the PLO will continue to seek legitimization under Syrian aegis.

[Abu Ziyad] Those who are still considered to be under Syrian aegis must call on the PLO institutions and express their view from within the PLO institutions.

[Gus] This is what you think. The question is whether they think likewise.

[Abu Ziyad] I think they think the same way, that an individual Palestinian cannot demand the legitimization of the PLO. If they really represent a majority within the PLO, then they should express their views and undertake to respect the decision of the majority when 'Arafat summons them to appear before the PLO institutions.

[Gus] Who do you think the inhabitants of the territories sympathize with ?

[Abu Ziyad] All the referendums [as heard] in the territories, all the signs and everything you see in the streets, schools, and every where, indicate that the territories sympathize with 'Arafat. [end recording]

Former Intelligence Chief on Terrorist Activity

TA201856 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Report by Alan Ben-'Ami]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat has finally sailed from Tripoli. Where does this leave the terrorist leader, Israel, and the PLO? Former head of Israeli Military intelligence, General Yehoshu'a Sagi, told me that he forecasts an intensification of the conflict.

[Begin recording][Sagi] The fact is, that most of the miltiary part of the PLO is now in the hands of Syria, ruled by the Syrians through Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] from the new leadership in Syria, or in Lebanon and Syria. The problem is now to reaffirm themselves, to assert themselves, on the part of the PLO, and that I think will involve in the future a more militant activity against Israel, mainly in Lebanon, but I am not ruling out the possibility that they will try maybe for overseas activity, and maybe in Israel even. From 'Arafat's point of view it is now more a question of survival, to re-gather the parts of his organization, and the problem of reestablishing his military power. That might include some demonstrative act, which I am not ruling out, and I think that for Israel the future will be harder. [end recording]

Rosenne Discusses Egypt Problem With Shultz

TA201215 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Dec 83 p 4

[Report by 'Oded Granot and Shefi Gabay]

[Excerpt] Israel's ambassador in the United States, Me'ir Rosenne, yesterday asked U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to convey to Egypt Israel's dissatisfaction about the recent deterioration of relations between Cairo and Jerusalem.

This deterioration is reflected mostly in the Egyptian press attacks on Israel and Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Moshe Sason following the strengthening of relations between Israel and the United States.

The Israeli ambassador asked the U.S. secretary of state to convey Israel's concern and dissatisfaction about the state of affairs with Egypt to Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, who will visit Washington next week.

The secretary of state listened to Israel's complaints, but did not promise to raise them with the Egyptian delegation, which may also include Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali.

Th U.S. secretary of state and the Israeli ambassador also discussed the bilateral Israeli-U.S. meetings which are scheduled to take place in Washington next month within the framework of the joint military-political committee, as well as the meetings concerning economic aid and the establishment of a free trade zone.

Segev on Egypt Dialogue

TA201458 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Dec 83 p 8

[Commentary by Shmu'el Segev: "Momentum Instead of Stalemate"]

[Text] The accusations Israel and Egypt are flinging at each another over the nature of bilateral relations can be used as a stimulus to renew the dialogue between Cairo and Jerusalem, in order to stop the deterioration which has characterized relations up to now.

It is only fair to admit that the low state of affairs is not the result of the behavior of one side alone. Contrary to the accusations of the Egyptian press, President Mubarak and his Cabinet are not exempt from responsibility for the freeze in relations with Israel. However, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir cannot claim that Israel is blameless in this matter. Apart from the damage to the cars of Egyptian diplomats in Tel Aviv, a number of things have happened lately which are interpreted in Egypt as an Israeli refusal to improve the atmosphere.

For example, without a convincing explanation, Israel has prohibited the departure of five notables from the Gaza Strip for meetings in Egypt with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali. The delegation included the leaders of the Chamber of Commerce and the lawyers union, the mayor of Khan Yunus, and two representatives dealing with refugee and education issues. This is the first time that such a delegation has

asked to meet with the Egyptian foreign minister, and its very desire to travel to Cairo was interpreted in the Gaza Strip as a willingness to recognize the Camp David accords and join the autonomy talks in the future. Israel's refusal to allow the departure of the delegation strengthened in Cairo the suspicion that Israel is not at all interested in solving the Palestinian problem and that all its declarations on the issue of renewing the autonomy talks are mere lip service.

Another example. Following Israel's retreat from the Sinai and the partition of Rafah into two parts in accordance with the international border, 4,000 refugees were separated from their families in the Gaza Strip. Even before the withdrawal tough negotiations were held on this issue, but they were fruitless. Now it has been settled that about 4,000 refugees in (Tall Sultan) will be reunited with their families and Egypt has expressed a willingness to help in their resettlement in the Strip by a payment of $4,000 for each head of a family. However, Israel is demanding $8,000. The doubling of the amount is seen in Egypt as an excuse for avoiding the solution of the problem.

The Tabah problem and the Aviya Sonesta Hotel, which was built in the disputed area, also remain unsolved. Israel has publicly declared that it is willing to discuss this in any framework suggested, but Egypt claims that "Israel insists on holding negotiations in Jerusalem." This suggestion by Israel, even though Israel knows Egypt's attitude vis-a-vis Jerusalem, is seen in Egypt as a tactic to corner Egypt and lay the responsibility for the freeze at its feet.

These three episodes testify to the atmosphere of mutual suspicion and the unwillingness of each side to make a good-will gesture toward the other. Against this background the strategic understanding between Reagan and Shamir was reached which was a devastating blow to President Mubarak. The U.S.- Israeli understanding reduced Egypt to the status of a "concubine," as compared to the status of a "lawful wife" achieved by Israel in Washington.

In the days of President as-Sadat, Egypt attempted to attain a comparable status to that of Israel in the United States. The sea and air services extended by Egypt to the United States, the logistic help extended during the U.S. attempt to release the hostages in Tehran, the cooperation in Afghanistan, and the joint military maneuvers during the "Bright Star" exercise — all these gave Egypt the hope that it would gradually push Israel out, taking its place as the preferred U.S. ally in the Middle East. The Reagan-Shamir understanding torpedoed this hope and opened the eyes of President Mubarak to the solid Israeli position in Washington.

However, despite recent events, Israel and Egypt must search for practical ways to reduce the tension between them and to renew the peace momentum. It seems to me that due to Israel's strengthened position in the United States and Lebanon, it can afford to show "the generosity of the powerful" and make some gestures toward Egypt which will bring about a gradual alleviation in the tension in bilateral relations. The Camp David accords and the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty are among the major achievements of Israeli diplomacy in the last decade. It would be a shame if the peace process were to be halted.

Supreme Muslim Council Condemns Grenade Attacks

TA201827 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] The Supreme Muslim Council this evening condemned the attacks which took place in the village of Al-'Azariyah. A muezzin fron a mosque and a nun were injured in those incidents. The Supreme Muslim Council said that the attack is another link in the terrorism against places holy to Islam and Christianity and against the helpless residents of the territories. The Supreme Muslim Council demands that the government take firm steps against the perpetrators of the attacks and stop the security chaos. Our correspondent in Judaea and Samaria Arye Gus adds that the Council called on the world's nations to intervene on behalf of the area's residents.

Burg Condemns Grenade Explosions

TA201938 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] The Minister of Interior and Religious Affairs Yosef Burg has condemned today's grenade incidents at the nunnery and a mosque in Jerusalem. He stressed Israel's policy of ensuring freedom of worship for all faiths. Reporter Jack Katznell asked Dr Burg about the reports of the Jewish extremist group called TNT, Terror Against Terror, and the fears voiced by the superior of the nunnery.

[Begin recording] [Burg] We are here, hundred of thousands of citizens, and we want that everyone, whatever is his religion, should feel safe, should feel well, and very good, in this country and this city. This what he mentions, TNT, is not proof that something of this line does exist. That can be three or four people that telephone and say that they are TNT. That means Terror Against Terror. But there is no proof that a group of this kind does exist. There surely is some group or some individuals that do something, but the name, perhaps they have adopted the name from a certain group that was busy a couple of years ago.

[Katznell] Is there any sign that you will be able to catch these people, who have been very elusive up till now?

[Burg] Who is elusive?

[Katznell] This apparently Jewish group.

[Burg] Apparently nothing. They may be a group of Arabs that want to make the impression that there is a Jewish group, of Khomeyni people, and you know what those Khomeyni people do today, in different countries including Kuwait. So I would like that you should not jump to conclusions. [end recording]

An-Najah Student Demonstrations Support 'Arafat

TA201128 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] An-Najah University students today held demonstrations in support of Yasir 'Arafat. A few dozen students marched toward the university and protested the roadblocks put up by the

military government at the university gates. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the security forces dispersed the demonstrators with tear gas and warning shots. The soldiers manning the roadblocks allow only students to enter the university.

Various Incidents, Casualties Reported 20 December

Soldiers Wounded in Lebanon

TA201420 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Two IDF soldiers were wounded this afternoon in the eastern sector of Lebanon. The armored truck in which they were travelling hit a land mine hidden near the cease-fire line with the Syrians, about 2 km northeast of Jubb Jannin. The wounded were evacuated to hospitals. The IDF spokesman announced that the IDF has begun searching the area.

Explosive Device in Sidon

TA201429 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1423 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] A second explosive device was discovered in Sidon this afternoon. This time an IDF patrol discovered the device along the roadside and detonated it. There were no casualties. This was reported to us by our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz.

Grenade in Gaza Strip

TA201714 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] A hand grenade was thrown at an IDF patrol on Gaza's main street today. It missed, rolled toward the car of a local resident, exploded, and wounded a woman pedestrian. IDF forces have begun searches.

Molotov Cocktail in Nabulus

TA201851 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was thrown this evening at a border police patrol in Nabulus. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. The security forces began combing the area. Our correspondent Arye Gus notes that this is the second Molotov cocktail thrown today at IDF patrols in Nabulus.

U.S. Navy Reportedly Wants Kfir Planes

TA201043 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Dec 83 p 4

[Report from New York by Ya'aqov Erez]

[Text] After lengthy examinations and checks, the U.S. Naval Command has decided to advise the Department of Defense to purchase Kfir planes made by Israeli Aircraft Industry to use as training planes. The U.S. Naval Command also considered the use of the F-16 made by General Dynamics, as well as planes made by the Northrop Company and another U.S. company.

Science Minister Leaves for France 19 Dec

TA191944 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1840 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] Tel Aviv, 19 dec (ITIM) — Minister Yuval Ne'eman left this morning for an official visit to France. During his visit he will meet with French Minister of Industry and Research Laurent Fabius and with the head of the French National Council for Research and development (Mr Papon). Minister Ne'eman will also meet with the head of the French Space Agency and the director general of the French Atomic Energy Commission.

In these meetings, as well as in additional meetings with French External Relations Ministry officials, Mr Ne'eman will sum up issues pertaining to scientific cooperation between France and Israel. On his departure, Minister Ne'eman referred to the UN General Assembly resolution passed at the end of last week, which called on the International Atomic Energy Agency to suspend cooperation with Israel. Ne'eman said that this was not the first anti-Israeli resolution of its kind adopted by the UN General Assembly. It will be recalled that the UN General Assembly adopted a similar resolution directed against the Mediterranean-Dead Sea project. From time to time similar resolutions are adopted by the UN. All these are not practical in nature but political, and they have no operative significance.

Free Trade Zone With U.S. To Begin by 1985

TA161909 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Industry and Commerce Minister Gid'on Pat believes that the free trade zone between Israel and the United States will begin operating by 1985. Upon returning from a visit to the United States today, Minister Pat said the new agreement would resemble that of the European Common Market and would cause a revolution in the Israeli economy and exports.

Iranian 'Jewish Department' Causing Concern

TA201132 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Dec 83 p 21

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Shefi Gabay]

[Text] A special department for what is termed "the Jewish problem" has been set up lately by the Iranian authorities. This was reported to *MA'ARIV* by a foreign correspondent who stayed in Tehran recently. The new department is causing much concern in the Jewish community in Iran, since its object is to segregate the Jews from the rest of the citizens of the country.

The correspondent also reported that the Jewish community was in a state of anxiety during the mass burial ceremony for 17 Iranians killed in the Israeli Air Force bombing around the town of Ba'labakk in the Al-Biqa' Valley. Iranian media have for the first time claimed that the 17 were killed by Jews and not Israelis, as they have claimed up to now.

Investigation of Argentine Flight Reported

TA201732 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Argentina's new president, Raul Alfonsin, has ordered an investigation into the flight of an Argentine Air Force plane via Spain to Israel, carrying 10 stowaway passengers and a consignment of documents. A government spokesman in Buenos Aires said that an investigation would be made and clearly one or two persons would be arrested.

The Argentine Air Force has denied that the plane, which left for Israel last week, was carrying secret passengers or documents, but confirmed that there were 3 passengers on board who did not go through emigration control, all of them relatives of Argentine Army personnel serving in Israel. Disciplinary measures will be taken against those responsible for the blunder. The statement further noted that reference was to a routine flight to Ben-Gurion Airport by a plane bringing equipment parts for repair from Argentina to Israel. According to the Air Force, such flights have been taking place regularly for over 20 years.

Argentine Embassy Comments

TA211211 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Dec 83 p 2

[Text] Tel Aviv — A senior Argentinian Embassy source said here yesterday there was nothing mysterious about the arrival in Israel recently of an Argentinian Air Force plane carrying people who may have left Buenos Aires illegally.

This is despite the fact that Argentina's newly elected President Raul Alfonsin on Monday ordered an investigation into the plane's flight on December 12.

The Argentinian Air Force yesterday denied reports the plane carried documents and 10 clandestine passengers, but said three passengers — relatives of Argentinian military personnel in Israel — did not go through immigration control in Buenos Aires.

The embassy source, who asked not to be identified, said Argentinian military planes fly here regularly, bringing back equipment sent here for maintenance. REUTER reports that the plane in question brought back engines and spares for Argentina's Israeli-built Dagger fighter planes. Such flights have been going on for more than 20 years.

Syrian-Held POW Sends Pictures to Family

TA201921 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] An Israeli being held prisoner in Syria has sent a letter and two pictures of himself to his family here. Corporal Yohanan Alon wrote that he feels good and asked his family not to worry. The letter and pictures were delivered by the International Red Cross after one of its representatives visited the prisoner last week. He also wrote he received medical treatement after being injured when he was taken prisoner.

Reportage on 5-Nation Summit in Bissau

Summit Ends

LD201431 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 1300 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] The summit of heads of state from the five Portuguese-speaking African countries ended in Bissau this morning.

A final declaration has been drawn up by the five presidents, but its terms are still unknown. Sources close to the summit, however, indicate that the final text of the declaration makes no reference to the Portuguese proposal for the institutionalization of the special relations among the seven [as heard] countries using Portuguese as their official language. This issue was not the subject of any special debate during the summit proceedings, and was merely discussed at a private meeting of the five presidents.

Portuguese Role in Timor Sought

LD201854 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 1800 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] The presidents of five Portuguese-speaking African countries — Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, and Sao Tome and Principe — have strongly urged the Portuguese Government to fully assume its historical, political, and juridical responsiblities in the East Timor issue.

At the end of their summit in Bissau, the five heads of state pointed out that Portugal, in conjunction with Fretilin [Front for an Independent East Timor], must find a just solution to the conflict with Indonesia. The summit demanded the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Indonesian troops from East Timor, and an end to the restrictive measures imposed by the Indonesian regime on international humanitarian organizations there.

Communique Issued

AB210735 Paris AFP in English 1613 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Bissau, Dec 20 (AFP) — Heads of state of Africa's five Portuguese-speaking countries are to boost their cooperation during 1984, a joint communique published at the end of their two-day summit here said today.

The leaders of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe decided to rationally and intensively employ their respective training capacities, move towards setting up a common financial institutions, promote trade and increase financial returns on sea and air transport and ship repairs. The five also decided to continue their political and diplomatic harmonisation and recommended moves toward appointing joint representatives at diplomatic and consular levels.

The summit stressed the importance of Portuguese as a working language in international organisations and welcomed the progress made in this direction since the last conference at Praia, Cape Verde, in 1982.

The joint communique also condemned South Africa, called for international assistance for Angola, urged negotiations on Chad and denounced Indonesia's actions in East Timor, another former Portuguese colony.

OAU Chairman Meets With Chad Faction Leader

EA210546 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the PMAC [Provisional Military Administrative Council] and of COPWE, commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and current chairman of the OAU, received and held talks today with Mr Acheikh ibn Oumar, leader of one of the warring factions in Chad. During a ceremony held at the comrade chairman's COPWE office, our revolutionary leader and Mr Acheikh ibn Oumar discussed the conditions for the talks to be held in Addis Ababa at the end of this month between the brothers in Chad who have been engaged in civil war for so many years. The meeting is to take place on 9 January, in line with an earlier recommendation by the current chairman of the OAU.

The comrade chairman gave a detailed briefing to Mr Acheikh ibn Oumar on the upcoming meeting. Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam told him that the talks will be devoted to finding a lasting and peaceful solution to the problem in Chad, and on ways to enable the people of Chad to decide their own destiny and embark on a peaceful path.

Comrade Goshu Wolde, minister of foreign affairs and member of the COPWE Central Committee, was also present at the ceremony.

19th UDEAC Summit Meeting To Open in Bangui

AB191120 Paris AFP in English 0720 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] Bangui, Dec 19 (AFP) — Equatorial Guinea is set to join the Central African Customs and Economic Union [UDEAC] today before its 19th summit conference opens here in the capital of the Central African Republic.

Equatorial Guinean leader Colonel Obiang Nguema Mbasogo said on arrival Sunday that he hoped membership would help, through UDEAC's connection with the franc zone, to solve the problem of the non-convertibility of his country's currency, the bipkwele.

Also attending the summit, as an observer, is Chad's leader Hissein Habre. His country left the UDEAC in 1968, two years after it was set up, but has of late said it would like to rejoin.

One of the questions to be tackled at the conference concerns interest on Chadian debts with the bank of the State of Central Africa.

The summit is to [word indistinct] links to maintain with a new regional grouping formed in October, the Economic Community of Central African States. It comprises the UDEAC members plus Chad, Rwanda, Burundi and Zaire.

LIBYA

Jallud, Al-'Ubaydi Meet Iranian Ambassador

LD200946 Tehran IRNA in English 0905 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Tehran, Dec 20, IRNA — Iranian ambassador in Libya, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad Lazem Khansari, Sunday, separately met with Libyan prime minister [title as received], 'Abd as-Salam Jallud and secretary of the Bureau for External Relations, 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi.

The Iranian envoy arrived in Tripoli recently and discussed matters of mutual interest with the Libyan officials.

During these meetings, emphasis on the expansion of bilateral ties had been made, it was reported.

MOROCCO

Tunisia's Es-Sebsi Arrives With Message for King

LD201404 Rabat MAP in English 1208 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Casablanca, Dec 20 (MAP) — Tunisian minister of foreign affairs, Mr Beji Caid es-Sebsi, arrived here on Monday, with a message from President Habib Bourguiba to King Hassan II of Morocco.

In a statement to newsmen, Mr es-Sebsi said he would hold talks with Moroccan officials on questions of common interest, particularly those related to reinforcing relations between the two brotherly countries.

Ministry Announces Death of King Hassan's Brother

LD201628 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Statement issued by Ministry of Royal Court, Protocol, and Medals on 20 December 1983]

[Excerpt] Morocco is bereaved by the death of His Royal Highness Prince Moualy 'Abdallah, [brother of King Hassan II], who died this morning after a long illness.

SUDAN

Government Forces Break Siege on Nasir, Kill 480

NC202158 Paris AFP in English 2116 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 20 (AFP) — Government forces have broken a siege by rebels on a town in southern Sudan, Sudanese vice-president 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib said today.

General at-Tayyib, speaking to a rally in Bentiu in southern Sudan, said that after breaking the siege on Nasir township, about 30 kms (18 miles) from the Ethiopian border, government forces began chasing the remaining rebels towards Ethiopia "like stray dogs," Sudan's SUNA news agency reported.

General at-Tayyib, who heads the nation's internal security apparatus, added that in an armed clash at Mallwal, a neighboring village to Nasir, government forces killed 480 rebels, while the government sustained casualties of seven killed and 13 wounded.

"Hospitals in Addis Ababa and Gambela (in southwest Ethiopia) are now full of wounded outlaws," General at-Tayyib said.

Yesterday General at-Tayyib repeated allegations that Ethiopia and Libya were behind unrest in the south of the country and warned that Sudan would deal "deterrent blows" if necessary.

In an obvious reference to recent incidents in the region, he asserted that "the conspiracy was planned by the Kremlin, carried out by Havana and financed by (Libyan leader Mu'ammar) al-Qadhdhafi's Tripoli, while the [words indistinct] on the Abyssinian plateau (Ethiopia)."

(The Ethiopian news agency, quoting Khartoum and Cairo, said earlier today that Egyptian fighter aircraft had arrived in the Sudanese capital, apparently to help in suppressing the unrest in the south.)

President Numayri Evaluates Mideast Situation

PM191301 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Dec 83 p 4

[Part II of an interview with President Ja'far Numayri by 'Irfan Nizam ad-Din in London — date not specified]

[Excerpts] Question: Mr President, following your recent tour, during which you met with major world leaders in the midst of this turbulent situation, you must have formed some idea which can serve as a basis for an evaluation of that situation. Would you tell us what your evaluation is, and whether you expect an easing of tension or a tendency toward war?

Answer: It is difficult to make a precise evaluation, but the general situation, as I have often said before, leads one to believe that Lebanon will be the starting point of a global war which will probably be the end of the world, or, rather, the end of civilization, because there is no person or human being who can define the end of the eternal world. But it will be the end of major civilizations and empires, and God Almighty himself will determine their fate. The majority of leaders agree with my view and say that, indeed, no one can understand what is happening in Lebanon or reach any conclusion about it, except by looking at what is happening there now. Unfortunately, the superpowers, which have major plans in the region, do not wish to disclose what those plans are. In other words, both the Soviets and the Americans have interests in the area — but exactly what are those interests? The Americans say that it is oil, while the Soviets say that they have an interest with their friends there, as well as an interest in not leaving this area to the Americans alone. I personally believe that the Soviets and the Americans have no right to forcibly impose their desires and policies in the region. This is particularly true of the Soviets, who want to impose their ideology by force, allegedly because there is colonialism there. I obviously disagree with many people in this regard, and I dis-

agree with all those who hold this view. You cannot, for example, come to Sudan and say that Numayri's government is reactionary, that the Soviets therefore want to help others change the regime, to make it progressive or whatever. For this reason, I oppose and always will oppose the Soviets in any place, wherever they may be, because they try to impose their ideology and dictate their authority from Moscow by force. However, this does not mean that the Americans also wish to interfere. They do so only in order to preserve their genuine interests and to create friendships that agree with their interests in the region, that is, as long as the Americans see no need to have military forces or other forces of their own present. In my view, this political action tips the scales in the Americans' favor, placing their interests above Soviet interests in an area that rejects Soviet domination and Soviet ideology — which is quite contrary to our ideology, be it Muslim, Christian, or any other religion. Soviet ideology opposes every religion, and one should bear in mind the fact that the Middle East is the cradle of religion.

Question: Did you warn Reagan of these things when you met him? Did you urge him to act in order to resolve the crux of the problem — the Palestinian problem — and what response did you receive?

Answer: I believe I mentioned this in both my talks at the White House and in my speech to the press. I told the Americans that they have a major role to play in restoring peace to the region and that they must bring pressure to bear on Israel, which is the cause of disasters in this area, in order to restore peace, stability, and security. At the same time, I urged the Soviet Union to not stand idly by, but to contribute to those efforts which we believe will bring peace to the area and its people. If the Soviet Union wishes to help, it should do so by refraining from interfering in the affairs of certain countries and from sending arms. I do not believe that such arms will help to deal a decisive blow to the enemy — the enemy of the Arabs, as we call it — or bring victory to the Arabs. In other words, Soviet support is ineffectual.

Question: Mr President, in light of this evaluation, don't you believe that the situation calls for the convening of an Arab summit, or do you believe that convening such a summit would give rise to additional disputes? Are any steps being taken in this regard?

Answer: I believe that convening a summit at this point would lead to more differences. I do not advise holding a summit meeting unless we are certain that all the aides — that is, the ministers — have thoroughly discussed the various issues and taken the necessary steps. I do not believe that an Arab summit is the place for detailed discussion, because it would put the Arab leaders in an awkward position.

Qeustion: The second initiative which you are now taking and which I believe you are continuing is the question of Egypt's return to the Arabs or the Arabs' return to Egypt. Naturally, Egypt says that it will not renounce Camp David on the grounds that it is a pact which it will not violate. For their part, the Arab countries have declared that Egypt must renounce it and should not meet with Israel. How can this crisis — which has been a cause of disasters — be resolved?

Answer: The way to resolve it is clear. The entire Arab world and all the Arab countries have felt the loss of Egypt from their community. Egypt's presence in the Arab world and its joint political and diplomatic action with the rest of the Arab powers is important. However, we feel that Egypt has not abandoned the Arab world and has taken many initiatives in the Arabs' interest. Egypt was never a traitor to the Arab cause, as some would say. Restoring Egypt to the Arab world is the duty of every Arab country. I disagree with those who say that Egypt may return to the Arab fold only by a decision at the summit. At the Fes summit we adopted an unwritten resolution that each Arab country should deal with Egypt bilaterally. I understand this to mean that any Arab country that finds it to be in its interest to restore relations with Egypt can do so immediately, and there is no need for it to refer the matter back to the summit.

We must not leave room for Israel. We should be there [in Egypt]. We are 20 or more states: If we raise our flags in Egypt, of what significance will one Israeli flag be among them? On the contrary, I believe that Arab ambassadors in Egypt can make diplomatic protests that are relatively more effective than what is said over the radio or in papers.

Question: Mr President, in light of your close ties with Egypt and President Mubarak, do you believe it unreasonable to say that he will sever relations or freeze the treaty permanently because Israel was the first to violate it?

Answer: I do not agree with severing relations because that is not in Egypt's interest and because two wrongs do not make a right. I do not agree with nullifying the treaty either, because two wrongs do not make a right. I do not advise President Mubarak to take such a step. It is not part of his policy.

Question: Let us move on to other questions. The question of the PLO: What is your opinion of the claim that the PLO is finished? Will Sudan receive Yasir 'Arafat and his forces after they leave Tripoli?

Answer: We have not considered that. I do not think that we will be able to receive more fighters. I believe that 'Arafat should stay close to the areas of action. There is no doubt that the PLO has lost a great deal because of what it has suffered. The dissidents have been able to wipe out the gains it achieved during its long years of struggle.

The PLO was something important for the Palestinians, but the mutiny has deprived it of its respectability as the symbol of the revolution. Of course, that revolution has lost its spirit. It has also lost the sympathy and support of Arab countries. Many international powers that supported its cause can no longer deal with it because it has lost its independent decisionmaking power and the independence of the revolution itself.

Question: Let us move to another urgent issue. In Paris you met with Goukouni Oueddei's representatives, but it is not known if agreement was reached on a new formula for resolving this problem or whether there is a Sudanese initiative in this regard.

Answer: By God, we met with them to tell them and make them understand that the Chadian problem is a difficult one and that none of the combatant parties can win a decisive victory. We said that there was intereference on both sides and that aid is being given to both sides, which has made the problem an international issue. The loser will be the Chadian people. The ideal solution is to stop the war, and it can only be stopped through the two parties' reaching full agreement with one another — between Goukouni and Habre. The results of such an agreement should be announced to all the parties involved in Chad — Libya, France, Sudan, Egypt, and the United States.

Question: There is another question that concerns Sudan, and that is the question of Eritrea. Sudan's efforts to resolve this problem met with difficulties. Of course, you have the problem of refugees, which is an economic and social burden for the Sudanese people. Is there any new development in this regard, or is the problem still the same?

Answer: There is nothing new there. The only new thing is Ethiopia's insistence on involving Sudan as a party to the problem. They know well that we have not been and will not be a party to the problem. The question of Eritrea is that the Eritrean people have been fighting for scores of years, that is, since the Addis Ababa government decided to annex Eritrea, which was under UN mandate but ruled by Addis Ababa. Ethiopia decided to annex Eritrea without referring to the Eritrean people. We in Sudan believe that Eritrea is part of Ethiopia, but since it was previously independent there should be some form of decentralized government, that is, a provincial, autonomous, or local administration in which the Eritrean people have a say in their own affairs, while the central government remains Addis Ababa. Many Ethiopian leaders believe that Sudan is helping the Eritreans in the war because all their campaigns, of which they have launched six or more, have failed and they were unable to curb the Eritrean people's uprising against the central government. The Ethiopians think that the Eritreans are only strong with the help of Sudan. We would like them to produce clear evidence to prove this before saying such things. On the other hand, we have evidence that Ethiopia has committed aggressive acts against Sudan, attacked it, helped in training those opposed to it, and assisted some of the governments that stand against Sudan and that seek to undermine it.

Question: A final question, Mr President, concerns your evaluation of Sudan's relations with Arab countries.

Answer: Sudan has good and close relations with Arab states. I believe that Arab countries look on us as brothers. Perhaps they were irritated in the past by certain stands and said that I had uttered unacceptable things. But now they realize that what I say is in the interest of the Arabs in general. Our relations with Saudi Arabia are special relations more than anything else.

The Saudi rulers' aid to Sudan and the Sudanese people is unlimited. They have been and still are the best supporters and brothers. But we would like even more because ours is a vast country with great potential that will be beneficial to the Arabs. Another thing that I would like to refer to with regard to Arab relations is that the company we Arabs agreed to set up with a capital of 600 million dinars has not yet been launched. These are purely Arab projects for the benefit of the Arab food basket. They began as small projects but with big names. Of course, Brother Amir Muhammad al-Faysal is personally launching a major project and is carrying out experiments for the introduction into Sudan of various types of seed not planted here before. This, naturally, benefits all Arabs.

ROK Envoy Arrives With Message for Numayri

JN201635 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Dec (SUNA) — ROK presidential envoy [name indistinct] arrived here last night with a message from ROK President Chon Tu-hwan to President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri related to bilateral relations and issues of common concern.

The ROK envoy will meet with number of officials to discuss issues of common concern and will hold a news conference at the end of the 2-day visit.

Contents of Message Disclosed

JN201912 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Dec (SUNA) — During his meeting with ROK envoy Kyong Check-kang today, President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri received a written message from ROK President Chon Tu-hwan. Minister of the President's Office Dr Baha' ad-Din Muhammad Idris attended the meeting.

Following the meeting, Dr Baha' ad-Din Muhammad Idris said that President Chon's message to President Numayri deals with results of the inquiry into the incident that took place in Rangoon, which resulted in the killing of some ROK officials including four ministers. The message notes that the results have proven the DPRK's involvement in this incident. The message also deals with the bilateral relations. President Chon announced his country's interest in the implementation of what was agreed on during President Numayri's visit to the ROK last march, and said that Korean technicians will arrive in Sudan on 28 December to prepare for the meetings of the joint ministerial committee which will be held in Khartoum at the beginning of next year.

The president of the republic asked the ROK envoy to carry a reply message to President Chon. The message clarifies his excellency's interest in bolstering the relations between Sudan and the ROK and points out the good results both presidents reached during his excellency's visit to the ROK last march.

At-Tayyib Addresses Upper Nile Assembly

JN201156 Khartoum SUNA in English 1048 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Malakal Sudan Dec 20 (SUNA) — First Vice President 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib arrived here Monday and addressed the opening sitting of the Upper Nile Region Peoples Assembly's 2nd session.

Addressing the assembly, At-Tayyib said the region was a target for the ambitions of expansionists because of the region's natural wealth.

He said the enemies of Sudan had plotted to start their destructive conspiracy through the Upper Nile region to destroy the achievements ofintegration, to stop development projects and to create instability.

At-Tayyib accused the Soviet Union, Cuba, Libya and Ethiopia of plotting against Sudan's unity.

He said: "The enemies' plot was planned in the Kremlin, implemented by Havana, financed by Libya and trained in Ethiopia."

At-Tayyib added that the criminal plot against Sudan had not stopped. "It shrinks when it faces the Sudanese people," he said.

He said the criminal plot was also aimed at deceiving the sons of the Upper Nile region by recruiting them for university studies which were in fact camps for communism, which is against religious and disdaining the human being and his values and capabilities. [sentence as received]

At-Tayyib said the region's sons had discovered the conspiracy (?aimed at) the region and took part in confronting Cuba's mercenaries and Al-Qadhdhafi's funds.

At-Tayyib warned that Sudan "will not be on the defensive position after today."

"Sudan will not be satisifed with repulsing its enemies; Sudan will deter them wherever they were, wherever they gathered and wherever they settled," At-Tayyib said.

He said Sudan would not tolerate anyone who tried to undermine its unity and the achievements of the people.

At-Tayyib said "the Upper Nile region will be the war front if they preferred to fight and will be the peace front if they preferred peace."

He said: "There is no [word indistinct] for dollar adventurers or an outlaw motivated by spite."

Upper Nile People's Assembly Speaker Majok Deng Atim in his opening address said the region was passing through critical security circumstances which need self restraint and wisdom.

He said the regional government had issued an appeal last August "to the brothers who preferred the use of power to join forces with their brothers [word indistinct] in this stage, in which the region is facing the challenge of development besides the challenge of establishing the regional institutions."

He called on the members to work among the people to enlighten them on the importance of rejecting conflicting means and to resort to reconciliation through understanding and dialogue in order to narrow differences gap and to observe the national interest.

Earlier in the day, At-Tayyib conferred with the region's military command and the region's security committee and discussed security situation in the aftermath of the recent events.

In the afternoon, At-Tayyib toured some of the public utilities in Malakal, including the military hospital and an orphans' care house.

At-Tayyib donated 20,000 pounds to the orphans' care house and 10,000 pounds to the teachers' training insititute.

At-Tayyib is scheduled to proceed this morning to Bentiu to inspect progress of work in oil exploration areas.

CHAD

OAU Asked To Invite Habre as 'Faction Leader'

AB202110 Paris AFP in French 1132 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Lagos, 20 Dec (AFP) — Two Chadian politicians who originally belonged to two different factions have called on the OAU to invite Chadian head of state Hissein Habre as only a leader of a faction to the forthcoming roundtable on Chad scheduled for 9 January in Addis Ababa. They would also like to have this conference held in Lagos.

In a communique issued to AFP in Lagos, Moussa Medela, a signatory to the Lagos accord, which constituted Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] when he led the Western Armed Forces in 1979, and Abdelkader Yacine (former secretary general of the original Frolinat) have said they are for a meeting between Chadian factions under the aegis of the pan-African organization, but they said that the different factions should be treated equally.

For his part, Habre has posed as a condition that he be considered the head of the Ndjamena government, while Goukouni Oueddei has expressed the wish that only the GUNT government be recognized.

The two politicians have said that since the Lagos authorities, who have already organized several reconciliation meetings between Chadian factions (mainly in Kano and Lagos), have good knowledge of the Chadian problem, the organization of this conference should have been assigned to the Nigerians.

According to a good Chadian source, however, there are doubts in Lagos on Yacine's representative status, as he is the former secretary general of the original Frolinat led by Abba Siddick (Hissein Habre's current minister of education) and on Moussa Medela, the GUNT's former health minister.

GABON

Equatorial Guinean Parliamentarians Visit

AB192020 Libreville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Final communique issued at the end of the visit to Gabon of a delegation of the People's House of Representatives of Equatorial Guinea on 16 December 1983 in Libreville — read by Augustin Nguema, speaker of the Gabonese National Assembly]

[Text] At the invitation of the National Assembly of the Gabonese Republic, a delegation of the People's House of Representatives of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea paid a working and friendly visit to Gabon from 11 to 16 December. The delegation was led by His Excellency (Patrice Cobogen Ngalo), speaker of the People's House of Representatives. The delegation also includes His Excellency El-Hadj (Longe Ndegono), minister delegate to the presidency of the republic in charge of relations with the People's House of Representatives; His Excellency (Santiago Emilia Seman), adviser at the presidency of the republic in charge of information; and Mrs (Maria Resoson Vita), acting charge d'affaires at the Embassy of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.

The Gabonese parliamentary delegation, which held talks with Guinean parliamentarians, was led by His Excellency Augustin Bouma Ngueme, speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Gabon, current chairman of the African Parliaments Union. It also included of Mr Georges (Ngombi), second vice president of the National Assembly; Mrs Marguerite Mba, third vice president of the National Assembly; Mr Jona (Vola Souma), chairman of the Administrative Affairs Commission, member of the Executive Committee of the African Parliaments Union; (Luli Atamodu), parliamentarian and member of the national group of the African Parliaments Union; Mr Joseph Marie (Ndongo Nguema), parliamentarian and member of the Executive Committee of the African Parliaments Union; and Mr (Etienne Nguemade), secretary general of the National Assembly.

The two delegation exchanged views and experiences on the legislative activities of their parliaments and expressed their readiness to develop ties and mutual cooperation. In this regard, the Equatorial Guinean side furnished the Gabonese delegation with further details, notably concerning their efforts to restore democracy in Equatorial Guinea. In fact, the delegation declared itself honored by this visit, which is a sign of reciprocal friendship and consideration serving to strengthen the privileged ties between the two countries and more especially between the two heads of state, His Excellency Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, president of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, and His Excellency El-Hadj Omar Bongo, the head of state of the Republic of Gabon and founding secretary general of the Gabonese Democratic Party, PDG.

The Equatorial Guinea delegation thanked the Gabonese delegation for the warm welcome, hospitality, and the great care given it during its stay in Gabon.

His Excellency (Patrice Cobogen Ngalo), the speaker of the People's House of Representatives, declared that he was satisfied with the collaboration and assistance that Gabon continues to give to the reconstruction and development efforts of Equatorial Guinea and also with the efforts that the Gabonese National Assembly is making toward getting the Equatorial Guinea Parliament to become a member of the African Parliaments Union. In addition, the Guinean delegation briefed the Gabonese members of parliament on the operational problems of their parliament and hoped the Gabonese National Assembly will help it set up the necessary infrastructure. With particular reference to this point, the Gabonese delegation invited the two leaders of the two parliamentary delegations to express their unanimous desire for the establishment as soon as possible of a Gabon-Equatorial Guinea friendship group, a structure that will permit the Gabonese delegation to go the Malabo to assess the needs of the Equatorial Guinea parliament and to give it assistance according the means at its disposal.

Concerning the membership of the Equatorial Guinean parliament in the African Parliaments Union, the leader of the Gabonese delegation explained that this African institution had

the aim of helping to strengthen the role and the prestige of the parliamentary institutions by drawing inspiration from fundamental African values in the quest for liberty, justice, and the effective implementation of representative democracy. Its purpose is to promote contacts between African parliamentarians and to contribute to the achievement of the aims and objectives of the OAU for the installation of lasting peace through dialogue. He assured the Equatorial Guinean delegation of his support for its application for membership in the African Parliaments Union.

The Equatorial Guinean delegation was received in audience by His Excellency El-Hadj Omar Bongo, president of the Republic of Gabon, head of state, and founding secretary general of the PDG, to whom it brought a personal message from His Excellency Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, president of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.

During its stay in Libreville, the Equatorial Guinean delegation attended the closing ceremony of the second ordinary session of the National Assembly and was also received by His Excellency Leon Auge, the permanent general delegate to the founding secretary general of the PDG; His Excellency Georges Rawiri, the first deputy prime minister and minister of road and rail transports and public relations; His Excellency Simon (Etlengla), president of the Supreme Court; His Excellency (Jean-Gasa Agono), mayor of Libreville.

The two delegations expressed pleasure over the fact that all the deliberations were carried out in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual confidence. The speaker of the People's House of Representatives of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea invited the (?members) of the National Assembly to pay an official visit to Equatorial Guinea. The invitation was accepted with satisfaction and a date for this will be fixed later.

Signed in Libreville on 16 December 1983 for the Gabonese delegation by Augustin Nguema, president of the National Assembly;

For the Equatorial Guinean delegation by Speaker of the People's House of Representatives (Patrice Cobogen Ngalo)

ZAIRE

USSR Merchant Marine Delegation To Visit

AB201430 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1230 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Kinshasa, 19 Dec (AFP) — A USSR delegation led by Mr V.V. Beletskiy, the vice minister of the Merchant Marine, is expected in Kinshasa this week for a 3-day official visit, it was announced by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

The five-member delegation will hold working sessions with Zairian experts in the field of maritime transport with the aim of negotiating certain cooperation agreements in this field. This visit will also give both the Soviet and Zairian sides the opportunity to broaden their cooperation in other fields.

ROK Official Arrives, Discusses Cooperation Ties

AB201515 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Kim Song-chin, South Korea's minister of communications, arrived in Kinshasa last night to begin a 4-day official visit to Zaire. He was welcomed on arrival at the Njili International Airport by his Zairian counterpart, Mukuku Wetonda, state commissioner for posts and telecommunications. The South Korean minister replied to a question on the aim of his visit to Zaire.

[Begin Kim Song-chin recording in Korean fading into French translation] I am in Zaire primarily to deliver a personal message from His Excellency President Chon Tu-hwan to his Zairian counterpart, Mobutu Sese Seko. During my stay in Kinshasa, I will hold discussions with top officials of the Zairian Government on the strengthening of the traditional friendship between Zaire and Korea as well as the ties of cooperation existing between the two countries. [end recording]

President Mobutu Speaks at Lisbon Dinner

For the speech given by President Mobutu Sese Seko on 14 December at a Lisbon banquet given in his honor by Portuguese President Ramalho Eanes during his visit to Portugal, see the Portugal section of the 20 December Western Europe *DAILY REPORT*.

BENIN

Mozambique's Machel Arrives for 2-Day Visit

AB202150 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Following his departure from Bissau, where he attended a summit of heads of state from those countries which were formerly under Portuguese domination, Comrade Samora Machel, president of Mozambique, arrived in Cotonou this afternoon for a 2-day friendly, working visit. Last Saturday, en route to Bissau, the Mozambique president made a technical stopover at Cadjehoun International Airport. It was in the same revolutionary atmosphere of happiness that the Mozambique head of state was welcomed a short while ago.

Upon arrival, President Samora Machel was greeted by our great comrade in struggle, President Mathieu Kerekou. The two heads of state were then accorded military honors, after which they greeted the central authorities of the party and state, members of the diplomatic corps, and militants of the democratic and popular revolution who had turned out en masse. They sang, danced, and shouted revolutionary slogans in honor and in support of the two countries' common struggle to build a free and prosperous Africa. Before speaking to newsmen, Comrade Machel held a private meeting with President Kerekou at the VIP hall. President Samora Machel opened his remarks to the media by making a general assessment of the results of the Bissau summit, which was devoted to various economic issues, the building of African unity, the liberation of southern Africa and Namibia, the Chadian question, and the Saharan people's struggle to recover their independence.

NIGERIA

Minister Seeks Greater Cooperation With U.S.

AB201205 Lagos NAN in English 1115 GMT 20 Dec 83

[By Lawrence Ukwu]

[Text] New York, Dec 20 (NAN) — Minister for External Affairs Alhaji Hassan Mohammed [name and title as received] on Sunday urged Americans to concentrate on things that can pave the way for greater cooperation and understanding between Nigeria and the U.S.

Speaking during a luncheon for members of the Nigerian delegation to the current session of the UN General Assembly and some American friends of Nigeria, Alhaji Hassan said that the bond between the two countries should not be allowed to break up.

The minister remarked that the similarity between Nigeria and the U.S. had been further cemented by Nigeria's operation of a constitution fashioned after that of America.

The New York correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) quotes Alhaji Hassan as saying that it was the duty of the American press to enlighten the public and not to confuse them further through fabricated stories about Nigeria.

The president of the U.S. chapter of the Nigeria-America Chamber of Commerce, Mr George Gabariono, called for greater awareness by the Federal Government on the importance of enhanced Nigerian image in the U.S. Mr Gabariono explained that this was very necessary if Americans were to understand Nigerians and know more about the country. Now, Mr Gabariono continued, there is no carefully planned out publicity campaign for Nigeria here in the United States with the result that many Americans are in no position to counteract distorted information about Nigeria.

Effects of 'Devastating Drought' Reported

AB201215 Paris AFP in English 0356 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Lagos, Dec 20 (AFP) — A devastating drought in parts of Nigeria has killed about one million cattle in northern Gongola State, representing 20 percent of its five million stock, state Governor Bamanga Tukur said at the weekend. He said the state also lost about 70 percent of its total crop yields due to the early end of the rains this year.

Mr Tukur said that governors of the country's ten northern states, hit by the drought in varying degrees, met recently to seek a solution to the "national catastrophe." President Shehu Shagari has been informed about the development through a communique, Governor Tukur said, but so far, no assistance had been received from the Federal Government. The only aid received was to help fight rinderpest, a cattle disease, which recently threatened Nigeria's main supply of protein from the north.

SENEGAL

24 Reportedly Killed in 18 December Clashes

AB201225 Paris AFP in French 1033 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Dakar, 20 Dec (AFP) — According to Tuesday's issue of the pro-government Senegalese daily *LE SOLEIL*, the latest casualty figures in the violent clashes which took place last Sunday in Ziguinchor (main city of Casamance), are as follows: 24 dead, including 5 members of the security forces.

According to the official communique published on Sunday shortly after the security forces clashed with separatist demonstrators, 19 (including 4 gendarmes) had been killed, while 80 were injured.

LE SOLEIL reports that the "march to Ziguinchor" was preceded by a number of altercations in the woods bordering the city. The fighting reportedly took place among the separatist groups that had been preparing for the march for several days. "There was no unanimity on whether to march. Those who were opposed to the idea were physically eliminated during a fight which broke out between them," writes the paper, without giving the exact number of dead. The paper adds that the security forces protecting the governor's residence were attacked on Sunday by

"impassioned and hysterical people who relied on the occult protection of the talismen they were wearing." It also confirms that women were among the first wave of demonstrators [words indistinct] four of them are among the victims.

According to reports reaching Dakar, the situation in Casamance was calm throughout Monday night and into Tuesday.

'Dakar Declaration' Issued at End of Symposium

AB201131 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] The international symposium on socialism, democracy, and development organized on the initiative of President Abdou Diouf and attended by representatives from 22 African and European political parties, ended yesterday evening with the adoption of a document known as the Dakar Declaration.

The Dakar Declaration, which deplores the generalized state of recession being experienced throughout the world, attributes this problem to the failure of development policies and to global inflation and unemployment. The document reaffirms the commitment of the symposium's participants to the discovery of relevant and collective answers to this situation through the systematic, concerted, and resolute promotion of democracy and socialism.

According to the text, subscription to the democratic and socialist ideal must be reflected in respect for the fundamental freedoms of self-expression, action, reflection, choice, and activity, regardless of the institutional framework (one party or multiparty) in which men may evolve.

The Dakar Declaration makes the task of striving to overcome poverty, misery, and inequality among nations — a search to be carried out collectively and in solidarity — a binding one on those political parties present. To this effect, the symposium recommends the definition and practice of a new type of cooperative policy based on active solidarity among brother parties with a view to establishing a more just, balanced, and, in a nutshell, more humane world. The final goal of this struggle is to formulate a new status for man, satisfied in his material and nonmaterial needs, free from all fear, capable of rehabilitating his past [words indistinct].

The declaration hailed the presence of representatives from the Namibian nationalist groups, SWAPO, the ANC of South Africa, and the PLO, and reaffirmed its active support for them.

TOGO

Envoy in Ghana Warns Togolese Residents

AB191128 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] The Togolese ambassador to Ghana, Mr Lare, has urged Togolese residents in Ghana to comport themselves and to desist from any activity that would discredit the image of their country. Mr Lare was addressing a meeting of Togolese residents at Tema. The ambassador said any misbehavior on their part would embarrass their country because of the cordial relations now existing between Ghana and Togo.

He warned that his embassy would not protect any Togolese who meddled in Ghana's political affairs and called on them to respect the laws of the country.

UPPER VOLTA

Minister on 'Difficult' Agricultural Situation

AB191900 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The minister of rural development granted an interview upon his return from a 48-hour working visit to Sahel Province. Seydou Traore told the press that the 1983-84 harvest may not be much different from that of 1973. Traore admitted that the general situation is difficult, and said that we must rely primarily upon ourselves to resolve it, as foreign aid is only one contributing factor.

[Begin Traore recording] The harvest which just ended was very bad. First of all, the rains started late, which inevitably delayed sowing. The harvesting season ended early and, consequently, the crops were not yet ripe. Moreover, the poor rainfall in the interior has led to a considerable shortage of cereals. The current estimate is 120,000 tons, which means we must find these 120,000 tons elsewhere, outside Upper Volta. If the problem ended there, perhaps there would be fewer difficulties; however, this is a general problem which affects neighboring countries as well, particularly in the north. [end recording]

SADCC Urges $300 Million in Drought Aid

MB20/550 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Official regional estimates are that drought has caused enormous human and financial suffering in southern Africa, and the victims are planning an international plea for help. The drought cost six nations — Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe — at least $1 billion in 1982-83, a financial burden which they felt could take years to overcome.

Some 4.5 million people are suffering in Lesotho, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe alone, and cattle are dying by the hundreds of thousands. The officials said as a result, the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, the main regional development organization, has drawn up an appeal for $300 million in emergency aid from the world community.

ANGOLA

Soviet Information Delegation Visit Noted

MB201400 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] The information and propaganda organizations of our country and of the Soviet Union have been meeting in Luanda for some days now to review their relations of cooperation. Accordingly, two interparty delegations are holding official talks at which it is expected that they will define new guidelines for next year.

The Soviet delegation, which has come to Angola to meet various Angolan officials, has already visited some information organs.

BOTSWANA

BDF Reports Slaying in Zimbabwe Border Skirmish

MB201515 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Excerpt] A commander of the Botswana Defence Force [BDF], Major General Meraphe, has disclosed yet another (?shoot-out) in just over a month along the Botswana-Zimbabwe border, and this time a man wearing the uniform of the Zimbabwe National Army was shot dead.

(?In the) first fatal shoot-out along the troubled border, a group of armed men wearing Zimbabwe National Army uniforms were about 200 meters inside Botswana when they were challenged by the BDF at about 0645 this morning in the Ramogwebane area. A release from the commander of the BDF says the intruders were spotted by the BDF crossing the border from Zimbabwe into Botswana. The men were challenged by members of the BDF when they were about 200 meters inside Botswana making their way towards one of the settlements in the area.

Maj Gen Meraphe says in the release that there was an exchange of fire between the armed men and members of the BDF, which resulted in the death of one of the intruders, and the rest of the members of the group ran back into Zimbabwe. The release says the dead man, dressed in a Zimbabwe National Army uniform, was armed with a general-purpose machine gun and 90 rounds of ammunition. Maj Gen Meraphe adds this is the latest of several incidents which have taken place in the area. The BDF patrol suffered no casualties during the exchange of fire.

The commander of the Zimbabwe National Army has been informed about the incident by the commander of the BDF. Last month, Maj Gen Meraphe disclosed that there had been an exchange of fire between the BDF and the Zimbabwe National Army around 0700 on the morning of 8 November. The BDF had come under Zimbabwean fire after a patrol had followed footprints crossing into Botswana for about 4 km. A contingent of about 30 members of the Zimbabwe National Army was involved. Rifle grenades and mortar shells were fired at the BDF patrol by the Zimbabwe Army before the BDF patrol withdrew.

Officials To Meet Over Clash

MB210832 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] It is reported from Gaborone that representatives of the governments of Botswana and Zimbabwe will have talks at an undisclosed venue today after Botswana announced that one of its army patrols had clashed with a group of armed men dressed in the uniform of the Zimbabwean Army. Radio Botswana reports that the Botswana delegation will be headed by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Archie Mogwe, and the minister of information, Mr Daniel Kwelagobe.

Earlier, Botswana announced that one of the armed men had been shot dead and that the others had fled across the border into Zimbabwe.

MOZAMBIQUE

'Bandit' Bases Destroyed in Inhambane Province

MB191830 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] Another two important bases of the armed bandits were destroyed in Morrumbene district last week by the Mozambique Armed Forces stationed in that area of Inhambane Province. The destruction of these bases is part of the operations aimed at the annihilation of the armed bandits following the seizure of the Tome base. The destruction and seizure of the bases in Macarringa and (Bhau) in Madangela was accomplished with the direct involvement of the residents of Morrumbene District, during which the armed bandits suffered heavy casualties.

The FPLM captured some war materiel and 15 bandits. In addition to the bandits and captured materiel, various goods stolen from the population, including beds, tables, motocycles, and bicycles, were recovered. At a mass rally held recently at the Morrumbene District headquarters, over 5,000 people from various locations and districts heard bandits give an account of the murderous actions they had carried out.

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha Discusses Mozambique, European Trip

MB161616 Johannesburg DIE BEELD in Afrikaans 12 Dec 83 p 2

[Text] Normalizing relations between South Africa and Mozambique depends on certain decisions to be made by Mozambique President Samora Machel and the grip the USSR has on him and his country. This was stated by Foreign Minister Pik Botha yesterday in an interview with *BEELD*.

Mr Botha, who returned this weekend from an extensive official tour of Europe, commented, among other things, on the new Portuguese initiative to create greater stability and peace in southern Africa. Mr Botha visited Portugal twice, where he consulted government leaders, among others.

Mr Botha would not comment on the possibility of a summit meeting between the prime minister and President Samora Machel.

If the Portuguese initiative, which is aimed specifically at Mozambique, is to succeed, the cooperation of the four governments — namely, Portugal, the United States, South Africa, and Mozambique — is necessary, Mr Botha said.

The Portuguese Government's endeavors at stability and peace in southern Africa must be seen in conjuction with its search for new markets and investment opportunities abroad for export and its efforts to combat unemployment in the country.

Portugal has the people with the necessary knowledge of Mozambique for the new initiative to succeed, and the United States, which is very interested in the Portuguese initiative, can give financial aid while South Africa will also help, but with certain conditions: Terrorist activities from Mozambique must cease.

President Machel is the man who must make the final decision and satisfy the other three countries that the proper climate has been created to encourage and promote investments.

The crucial question is, how strong is the USSR's grip on Mozambique?

Regarding his official European tour, Mr Botha said he did not beg or seek sympathy, but asked the European governments to have an open mind and cautioned and alerted them to the true facts about Africa and South Africa.

He told them on their own ground that he is deeply concerned about European countries which, despite their collectivity, could not agree on elementary bread-and-butter issues, as well as their lack of a uniform strategy against Soviet infiltration.

He pointed out that certain radical African leaders have recolonized parts of Africa. European countries are contributing to the poverty, misery, lack of freedom, and the general deterioration of Africa by dancing to the tune of these African leaders.

Western governments must address these leaders directly and tell them to stop shouting against South Africa and to get their own houses in order.

He conveyed to the Western governments the government's viewpoint that it is now tired of the continual direct and indirect threats of sanctions against South Africa.

If South Africa has become such a great burden to them, they must drop their responsibility of South Africa and see who is the first to suffer. That was his message to them, Mr Botha said.

It is in itself significant that he is the first foreign minister in 10 years to visit Portugal, Spain, and Italy. His visits, especially to Portugal and Italy, were exceptionally informative.

He went to Britain with a certain amount of irritation because of Mrs Thatcher's letters to a government member on South Africa's alleged destabilizing role in southern Africa, which was attracting the USSR to the region, as well as remarks in this regard by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Britain's minister of foreign affairs.

Mr Botha and Sir Geoffrey Howe had personal discussions in a pleasant and mature manner, which cleared the air.

In West Germany, he had the opportunity to talk to government officials and other members of parliament and industrialists. It was good that he could sound out his West German counterpart firsthand on their agreements and differences, Mr Botha said.

ANC's Nzo Finds 'Identity of Views' in Bulgaria

AU112043 Sofia BTA in English 1913 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Sofia, Dec 11 (BTA) — A delegation of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) led by Mr Alfred Nzo, the organization's secretary general, was on a visit here at the invitation of the CC of the BCP, December 5 through 10 of this year.

During the visit the delegation had talks with Mr Milko Balev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CC of the BCP, and Mr Dimitur Stanishev, secretary of the CC of the BCP. The talks featured absolute identity of views on all international matters discussed. Unreserved backing was expressed to the declaration of Mr Yuriy Andropov, secretary general of the CC of the CPSU and president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, which shows the possibilities to get over the danger hanging over world peace.

ANC Denies Using Swaziland as Base for Attacks

MB210824 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] The ANC says its guerrillas are not using Swaziland to stage attacks in South Africa. In a statement to the United Nations, the ANC denied allegations that its members are using Swaziland as a springboard for attacks in South Africa. The

claims were made recently by the South African foreign minister, Pik Botha.

Botha told the Swazi Government that ANC members were deployed in Swaziland and that the government should kick them out. The ANC statement accuses Botha of resorting to dirty tricks and fomenting conflict between the ANC and the Swazi Government.

Coup Plot Charges Reflect Lesotho's 'Insecurity'

MB201850 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Station commentary: "The Lesotho Coup Plot"]

[Text] The Lesotho Government's disclosure of a coup plot by unknown mercenaries, and its request to South Africa to do something about it, contain a number of curious features. But what the statement projects of the situation inside Lesotho, and especially of the position of the Jonathan government, is ominous.

The procedure in announcing the plot, which is apparently planned to take place in the next few weeks, was itself odd. Foreign diplomats and the media were informed even before the South African Government, to whom the message was addressed, and whose assistance is being sought in tracking down the mercenaries. And when the request did reach Pretoria, it provided no information on which the police could begin trying to track down the plotters.

Lesotho's fear of a coup is, presumably, well-founded, whatever the circumstances in which it came to light. It is certainly substantiated by the alienation of the people on which the Jonathan government had seemed (?intent) since abrogating the constitution and seizing power in 1970, when it became clear that it had lost a general election. As one of the 10 poorest countries in Africa, Lesotho is an inherently unstable country. But the manner in which its affairs have been handled has done nothing to reduce the potential for violent strife.

Chief Jonathan's own coup precipitated armed opposition that has grown steadily, particularly since the formation of the Lesotho Liberation Army in 1979. The terrorist campaign reached a climax in August last year when the minister of works was assassinated. Two weeks earlier, Prime Minister Jonathan had been attacked by armed men.

But mass popular dissatisfaction and political opposition assumed new dimensions in the first half of this year, when Chief Jonathan decided to enter into diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and other communist states. Former Foreign Minister Charles Molapo and a number of parliamentarians resigned. The Catholic Church, representing 40 percent of the Basotho people, reacted sharply. In a statement to congregations, the country's bishop spoke of the wrangle and dispute that has created confusion in the minds of many of our people, and reminded the prime minister of his many public commitments to oppose communism. At the same time, armed clashes between underground groups and the security forces increased.

It is not surprising that the Jonathan government feels insecure. Its belief that a coup is being plotted against it is a manifestation of the (?shaky) position in which it finds itself after 13 years of distancing itself from the people.

SWAZILAND

RSA, Mozambique Officials Meet for 'Secret Talks'

MB210707 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 21 Dec 83 pp 1,16

[Excerpt] Swaziland is playing the role of mediator in secret talks between high-powered delegations from Mozambique and South Africa.

The talks were held yesterday in the royal guest house at Manzana — 17 kilometres south of Mbabane.

The prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, and the minister of foreign affairs, Mr R.V. Dlamini, were present.

No official statement was relased, but it is believed that the Swaziland team's role was that of mediator and host and that the talks were centred on lessening the tension between Mozambique and South Africa.

Swaziland's police commissioner, Mr Titus Msibi, and defence force chief, Col Mangomeni Ndzimandze, were also present at the talks.

Machel Discusses Talks

MB201920 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Talks between Mozambique and South Africa are taking place in the Kingdom of Swaziland today. This has been announced by President Samora Machel in the Guinean capital. The Mozambique head of state was speaking this morning to a group of Portuguese journalists who have travelled to Guinea-Bissau to cover the summit of the five: Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe, and Mozambique.

The Mozambique delegation to the talks is led by Jacinto Veloso, minister in the presidency for economic affairs, and the South African delegation by Roelof Botha, minister of foreign affairs. This is the third meeting between the two countries. Previous meetings were held at the South African border town of Komatipoort.

President Samora Machel told the journalists that the talks are essential to finding a modus vivendi in Southern Africa. The Mozambique head of state said that after his visit to a number of Western European capitals, Mozambique has had countless international contacts on the situation in the region, having received various Western envoys, including that of Portugal. Even yesterday, President Samora Machel said, I received a long telex from the United States. President Samora Machel insisted on peremptorily stressing that South Africa was informed in advance that Mozambique is not going to the talks in order to

recognize apartheid, the bantustan policy, nor to destroy the ANC, which struggles for the rights of the people, justice, and freedom. The main objective, the supreme leader of Mozambique added, is that no country attacks the other. One cannot choose one's neighbors, they are a nuisance to us and we are a nuisance to them, Marshal Samora Machel remarked.

President Samora Machel reaffirmed that there are no ANC bases in Mozambique. South Africa must suspend its support for the armed bandits that operate in the country, the Mozambique head of state stressed. Marshal Samora Machel spoke at length about the methods used by the elements of the so-called resistance, referring to their activities as inhuman. We are holding 3,500 captured elements, President Samora Machel said.

The Mozambique head of state disclosed that the Red Cross and Amnesty International have been invited to visit Mozambique. I want to see what we should do with the prisoners, for we are giving them food, medicine and we have a force guarding them which could be used in a different manner, the Mozambique leader remarked.

The Mozambique delegation left Bissau this afternoon on its way back to Maputo, making a refuelling stopover in Cotonou and Luanda.

Botha Confirms Talks Held

MB210540 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, has confirmed that he, together with the minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, and the minister of defense, General Magnus Malan, has held discussions in Swaziland with two members of the Mozambique Government. In a statement released in Pretoria, Mr Botha said the discussions included a wide range of subjects, of which the security situation was probably the most important. Mr Botha would not elaborate any further on the meeting before he had reported to the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha.

The Mozambique news agency reports from Maputo that the Mozambique delegation was led by the country's minister of economic affairs, Mr Jacinto Veloso. Other members included the minister of justice, Mr Oscar Monteiro, and the former minister of state security, Mr Sergio Vieira, who is now governor of the Niassa Province.

Earlier, President Machel said in Guinea-Bissau, where he attended a conference of leaders of former Portuguese colonies, that Portugal and other Western countries had acted as mediators in arranging the talks. He said the United States had been informed of the talks. The talks were the third between South Africa and Mozambique in the past year. The last time representatives of the two countries met was when Mr Botha had talks with his Mozambique counterpart, Mr Chissano, at Komatipoort on 5 May.

ANC Members Rounded Up in Police Raid

MB201120 Mbabane THE SWAZI OBSERVER in English 20 Dec 83 p 3

[By OBSERVER reporter]

[Excerpts] Police launched another predawn raid on the Matsapha Mobeni Flats yesterday and rounded up eight members of the African National Congress.

According to a police spokesman these people have been rounded up for security reasons and this is not the first time they have been picked up by police.

The police spokesman added that apart from rounding up ANC members nothing was discovered.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda, Egyptian Vice President Meet in Kenya

MB210642 Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 14 Dec 83 p 1

[By Enock Ngosa]

[Text] Nairobi — President Kaunda has urged Arab countries to reorganise themselves into a strong force if they are to be respected by the United States.

Dr Kaunda said only when Arab nations would be able to speak with one voice will they get genuine support from the U.S. Government.

The president said this yesterday when the Egyptian vice president, Muhammad Salim, who had come to represent his country at Kenya's 20th birthday celebrations, called on him at his hotel suite.

He said Zambia's great worry now regarding the Middle East situation was the lack of unity among Arab brothers. Even more saddening was the destruction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Zambia cannot understand why any other country should attack Yasir 'Arafat and thereby do the job for Israel, which would now sit back and rejoice.

He expressed disappointment over the behaviour of Israel towards other Arab nations, in particular the struggle by the PLO.

The president told the Egyptian vice president, Mr Muhammad Salim, who called on him at his Hotel Intercontinental room yesterday, Zambians had not understood the attitude of Israel towards the Arab cause.

He informed Mr Salim, who represented his country to the 20th anniversary of Kenya's independence, that he was particularly

worried because Israel was being supported by racist South Africa and the United States.

"How could the Jews in Israel, who lost six million of their brothers and sisters at the hands of the Nazis led by Hitler, do the same thing against their fellow men," Dr Kaunda asked.

It was against this background Zambia broke off diplomatic relations with Israel even though the Israelis had been putting up useful cooperatives in Zambia at the time of souring relations, he said.

"I keep telling Zambians that how can Israel behave like this when the Jews were slaughtered by Nazi Germany and millions of people were lost," Dr Kaunda said, and added that no right thinking people could do what Israel was doing to fellow Arabs.

He extolled Egyptian President Husni Mubarak for trying to bring about peace in the Middle East.

The situation had become serious because of the behaviour of Israel.

"We hold President Mubarak in high esteem and this is not an empty praise. It is based on facts," Dr Kaunda told Mr Salim.

In reply, Mr Salim acknowledged Dr Kaunda's sentiments that the situation in the region had become explosive because of the attitude of the Jewish state. This was why Mr Mubarak had stayed home instead of coming to Nairobi.

But with the support of Zambia and other progressive African countries the problem would be overcome, Mr Salim told the president.

Earlier, Dr Kaunda met Rwandese President Major General Juvenal Habyarimana, whom he wished success in the forthcoming presidential elections.

He recalled the reception he was accorded when he paid a state visit to Kigali last year and the efforts people there were making to produce food.

The story of Rwanda was a success one because of the determination of the people to create the land and beat the shortage caused by hills and mountains.

"I have been in public service for 40 years and I know what I am talking about. Your story of success is appreciated by Africa."

What Rwanda was doing was in the right direction as Africans had suffered enough and continued to do so first from the slave trade, then from colonialist forces and the liberation struggles.

Dr Kaunda returned to Lusaka yesterday and was welcomed by dancing party militants.

He was met at the airport by party secretary general Mulemba, Prime Minister Mundia, and other high-ranking party and government leaders.

The president and his encourage left for Kenya on Saturday and was among other leaders who attended the celebrations.

Minister of State for Decentralisation Mrs Mavis Muyunda, who had accompanied the president, stayed behind for some official business.

ZIMBABWE

Reportage on PTA Heads of State Summit in Harare

Kaunda, Obote Opening Addresses

MB191947 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] The president of Zambia, Comrade Kenneth Kaunda, has said that the success of the Preferential Trade Area, PTA, will ensure the creation of a new economic order for the southern and eastern African region through cooperative efforts. Speaking at the opening of the PTA heads of state and government summit in Harare this afternoon, Comrade Kaunda said the PTA can be used as an effective instrument of achieving economic independence and eliminating the problems of poverty in the region.

Calling on member-states to increase agricultural productivity, President Kaunda said the population of Africa is expected to rise to 250 million people. He added that the demand for maize is valued at 18 million tons a year, but maize production is dropping to about 16 million tons a year, which means that the continent might have to import about 3 million tons of maize by the year 2000. He also called on African countries to give moral and material support to the people of Namibia and South Africa.

Addressing the same summit, the president of Uganda, Dr Milton Obote, said the slogan for all African countries and peoples should be: One Africa, One Revolution. Dr Obote said the struggle for the African people has one common base: the present economic imbalance. He added that the problem facing the African people is that they are leading an unfavorable poor quality of life, while their continent is rich in terms of resources. He remarked that people are poor because some of their resources have not yet been developed, and that this is why the struggling eastern African regions have seen it fit to establish the PTA project.

He also praised the people of Zimbabwe for successfully settling and working together with their former oppressors in the spirit of reconciliation. However, he said, the people only forgive but cannot forget, for that is part of their history.

Further Kaunda Opening Remarks

MB192020 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, today strongly criticized the two superpowers — the Soviet Union and the United States of America — for accelerating the arms race and called on African countries to desist from this trend and increase economic production to fight poverty.

Addressing the second summit of the Preferential Trade Area, PTA, which opened in Harare this afternoon, Dr Kaunda said the East-West relations had reached a new dangerous dimension. The president said since World War II never have the people of the world lived more under the constant threat of war and nuclear holocaust than now. He described as baffling and (?reckless) the devotion by some 500,000 scientists all over the world who have devoted their energies and time to research weapons of destruction. Dr Kaunda told the PTA summit that it was equally disturbing that some African countries were now helplessly caught in the arms race, in which nearly 650 billion kwacha are spent each year on the manufacture of arms. In his call on African countries to increase their economic cooperation, President Kaunda said proposals that were relevant to the attack on world poverty had ended up in fruitless discussions in international forum. He explained the debt relief problem is dismissed and considered as mere rhetoric by industrialized countries.

Mugabe Report; Kaunda Attack

MB200710 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] The second summit conference of the Preferential Trade Area, PTA, enters its second and final day today. The meeting was opened by the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, who delivered the chairman's report yesterday. Comrade Mugabe told delegates that the fragmentation of Africa into small national markets is worsening the economic conditions of the continent. He said unless there is collective thinking, planning, and action in all fields of social and economic activity, the future of African economies and governments will be determined by external forces. He pointed out that the success of the PTA depends on the participation, support, and ability of member-states to solve whatever problems the PTA encounters.President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia addressed the summit in his capacity as the outgoing chairman of the PTA. He made a blistering attack on the Western media for its unwarranted criticism of the Zimbabwean Government. The Zambian leader told the summit that Africa regards Comrade Mugabe as a hero, an honest man, and a humanist who is rebuilding Zimbabwe into a united and prosperous nation. He said few people could have done what Comrade Mugabe has done to bring glory to Africa.Dr Kaunda said it is regrettable that some members of the Western press have subjected Zimbabwe to a great deal of criticism over the detention of six Air Force men. He noted that the same press was silent when the rebel regime of Ian Smith slaughtered thousands of innocent Zimbabweans. Dr Kaunda reminded the Western world that Ian Smith is forgiven and is now a free man and a member of parliament in a country where he committed unequaled atrocities.

Mengistu Message

EA202234 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia, in his capacity as current OAU chairman, has urged the member-states to pursue economic and trade cooperation through sub-regional arrangements in order to attain their objective of an African economic community by the year 2000.

The call was made in a message he sent to the second assembly of heads of state and government of the Preferential Trade Area, PTA, for eastern and southern African states, which opened in Harare, Zimbabwe, yesterday.

Comrade Mengistu said that the benefits to be realized on the operations of subregional groupings such as the PTA will be enormous as the cooperation programs of African states expands to cover all sectors of their economies. He pointed out that as more than half of independent African countries are classified as least developed, there is an urgent need for the use of every available means to intensify cooperative endeavors in all fields of activity.

On the issues of Chad and the Saharawi Democratic Republic he expressed his preoccupation with the settlement of these issues and said that some progress had been made concerning Chad.

Banda Message for Kaunda

MB192022 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, in Harare to attend the second Preferential Trade Area summit, today received a special message from Malawi's life president, Kamuzu Banda. The message, whose contents were not disclosed, was delivered to Dr Kaunda by Malawi's finance minister, Phiri Chaziya, who is leading his country's delegation to this summit.Dr Kaunda said he was delighted to see the ngwazi in good health at the recent Commonwealth heads of state summit which was held in New Delhi, India. Earlier Mr Chaziya passed on Dr Banda's Christmas greetings to the president.

Mugabe Closing Remarks

MB201544 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] The second 2-day summit conference of the Preferential Trade Area, PTA, for eastern and southern Africa ended in Harare today. The conference was closed by the chairman of the PTA, the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe.Comrade Mugabe said the organization has now set sail in earnest and is charting the course which will lead all member-states into a more prosperous future. The prime minister pledged Zimbabwe's commitment to the creation of a viable economic community in the subregion. He said the 2 days of deliberation showed that despite the machinations of those who seek to subvert the region's hard won independence, there is a determination to forge solid and meaningful relations to promote trade and economic development. The PTA heads of state and government are expected to leave Harare this afternoon and will meet again for another PTA summit conference to be held in Burundi in December next year.